

# HISTORY OF THE O'BRIENS

FROM

BRIAN BOROIMHE

AD. 1000 to AD. 1945

by

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## CONTENTS.

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Chapter,	I. "Introduction". . . . .
	II. Battle of Clontarf; Brian Boroimhe slain AD. 1014...
	III. Brian Boroimhe to Turlogh Don, AD. 1000 to AD. 1528
	IV. From Turlogh Don who died in 1528 the Common ancestor of, The Earls of Thomond, The Viscounts Clare, The Ennistymon O'Briens, The Barons and Earls of Inchiquin (Marquises of Thomond), The Dromoland O'Briens, and The Stonehall and Blatherwycke O'Briens.
	V. The Earls of Thomond ... ..
	VI. The Viscounts Clare, offshoot of the Earls of Thomond, and residing in France ... ..
	VII. The Ennistymon O'Briens ... ..
	VIII. The Barons and Earls of Inchiquin (Marquises of Thomond) ... ..
	IX. Aran Islands O'Briens ... ..
	X. The O'Briens of Ballynalackan ... ..
	XI. The O'Briens of Grenau, who were Earls of Lismore, Viscounts Tallow, Baron of Castle Lyons in Ireland, branch of the Carrigogunnell O'Briens, itself a branch of of the Kings of Thomond ... ..
	XII. The Intermarriages of the MacDonnells of Kilkee and Killone with the O'Briens ... ..
	XIII. The Waterford O'Briens ... ..

	Page
Chap. XVI. The O'Briens of Ara Tipperary including the O'Briens of Lohort Castle, Co. Tipperary and the Kilcor and Pellick Castle O'Briens of Cork ... ..	181
XVII. The Lemeneagh and Dromoland O'Briens :— The fifth and now senior line from Turlogh Don who died in 1528, Barons of Inchiquin by succession since 1855	190
XVIII. The Pictures and Works of Art at Dromoland Castle, County Clare, the seat of Lord Inchiquin ... ..	258
XIX. The Stonehall and Blatherwycke O'Briens, branch of the Dromoland O'Briens ... ..	274
XX. The Dutch branch of the O'Briens, which is a branch of The Carrigogunnell O'Briens, descended from the Kings of Thomond ... ..	278
XXI. An account of The "Annals of Ireland", and "Assemblies of Tara" ... ..	286

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

---

	Opposite page
1.—Donough O'Brien 4th Earl of Thomond ... ..	72
2.—Henry O'Brien, 7th Earl of Thomond. ... ..	72
3.—Henry O'Brien, 8th Earl of Thomond ... ..	73
4.—Sir Daniel O'Brien Kt. 1st. Viscount Clare. ... ..	88
5.—Charles O'Brien, 5th Viscount Clare. ... ..	88
6.—Charles O'Brien, 6th Viscount Clare. ... ..	89
7.—Marie Genevieve Gauthier de Chiffreville ... ..	89
8.—The Honorable Laura O'Brien, Countess de Breteuil. ...	104
9.—Lady Antoinette Charlotte Septimanie O'Brien, Duchess de Choiseul-Praslin ... ..	104
10.—Charlotte Bulkely, wife of 5th Viscount Clare. ... ..	105
11.—The Hon <sup>ble</sup> Henry Bulkely, Master of the Household to Charles II and James II. ... ..	105
12.—Murrough O'Brien, 6th Baron and 1st. Earl of Inchiquin ...	120
13.—Murrough O'Brien, 6th Baron and 1st. Earl of Inchiquin, as a boy ... ..	120
14.—William O'Brien, 2nd Earl of Inchiquin ... ..	121
15.—William O'Brien, 3rd Earl of Inchiquin. ... ..	121
16.—William O'Brien, 4th Earl of Inchiquin ... ..	136
17.—Murrough O'Brien, 1st. Marquis of Thomond ... ..	136
18.—William O'Brien 2nd Marquis of Thomond. ... ..	137
19.—James O'Brien, Admiral, 3rd. Marquis of Thomond ... ..	137
20.—Mary Countess of Orkney, wife of Murrough 5th Earl of Inchiquin later created Marquis of Thomond ...	200
21.—Mary Jephson, wife of Honorable James O'Brien MP. ... ..	200
22.—Lady St. Ledger. ... ..	73
23.—Donough O'Brien of Lemeneagh ... ..	201
24.—Slaney O'Brien, wife of Donough O'Brien of Lemeneagh...	201
25.—Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st. Baronet of Dromoland ... ..	216
26.—Lucius O'Brien, eldest son of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart of Dromoland ... ..	216

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (*continued*).

	Opposite page
27.—Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart of Dromoland ... ..	217
28.—Sir Lucius O'Brien, 3rd Bart. of Dromoland ... ..	217
29.—Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart. of Dromoland. ... ..	232
30.—Sir Lucius O'Brien, 5th Bart of Dromoland and 13th Baron Inchiquin ... ..	232
31.—William Smith O'Brien MP. and William Smith his ma- ternal grand father ... ..	233
32.—Catharine Keightley. ... ..	233
33.—Mary Macmahon (Moirs Ruhr). ... ..	264
34.—Lucia 2nd dau. of Sir. George Hamilton 1st. wife of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart. ... ..	265
35.—Slaney O'Brien, wife of Conor O'Brien son of Donough 3rd son of Murrough 1st. Earl of Thomond ... ..	265
36.—Racehorse, The Bloody Shouldered Arabian ... ..	280
37.—Scene at Greenwich in 1543. Murrough O'Brien 57th King of Thomond surrenders to King Henry VIII, and is created 1st. Earl of Thomond and Baron Inchiquin...	264
38.—Dromoland Castle, view from the Eastern aspect ... ..	25
39.—Brian Boroimhe, Monarch of Ireland ... ..	24
40.—Mortogh More O'Brien, great grandson of Brian Boroimhe	24
41.—Herman O'Brien, Dr. Law and Notary of Leiden, Holland (1810-1880). ... ..	280
42.—Captain Otto O'Brien receives a visit in his house at Rotterdam in 1717 from Czar Pieter of Russia ... ..	281
43.—Jan O'Brien, (1650-1695) an oil painting by Jan de Baen ...	281
44.—The Honorable Donough O'Brien, 4th son of the 14th Baron Inchiquin author of this History of the O'Briens...	25



# FRONTISPIECE PEDIGREE, SHOWING IN SIX LINES OF THE O'BRIENS, FROM

A Chapter to Each line of descent is given in the Book,

and a general account of the Sovereignty and descent of the O'Briens from Brian Boromhe, who died in A.D. 1014 to the death of Turlogh Don in 1528, who was the Common ancestor of these lines :-

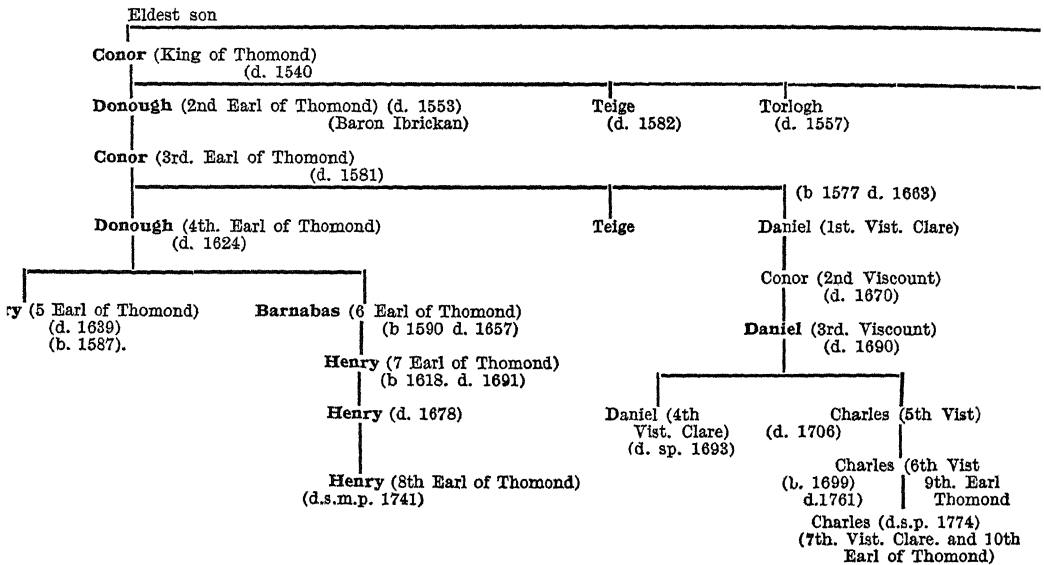
Priority from left to right :-

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1.—Earls of Thomond.                             | 4.—The Earls of Inchiquin (Marquis of Thomond) |
| 2.—The viscounts Clare.                          | 5.—The Dromoland O'Briens. (now Senior).       |
| 3.—The Ennistymon O'Briens (Sir Donald O'Brien). | 6.—The Stonchall and Blatherwycke O'Briens.    |

the right above will be seen the points at  
which issued the seven lines of kinsmen, which  
branched off before Turlogh Don :-

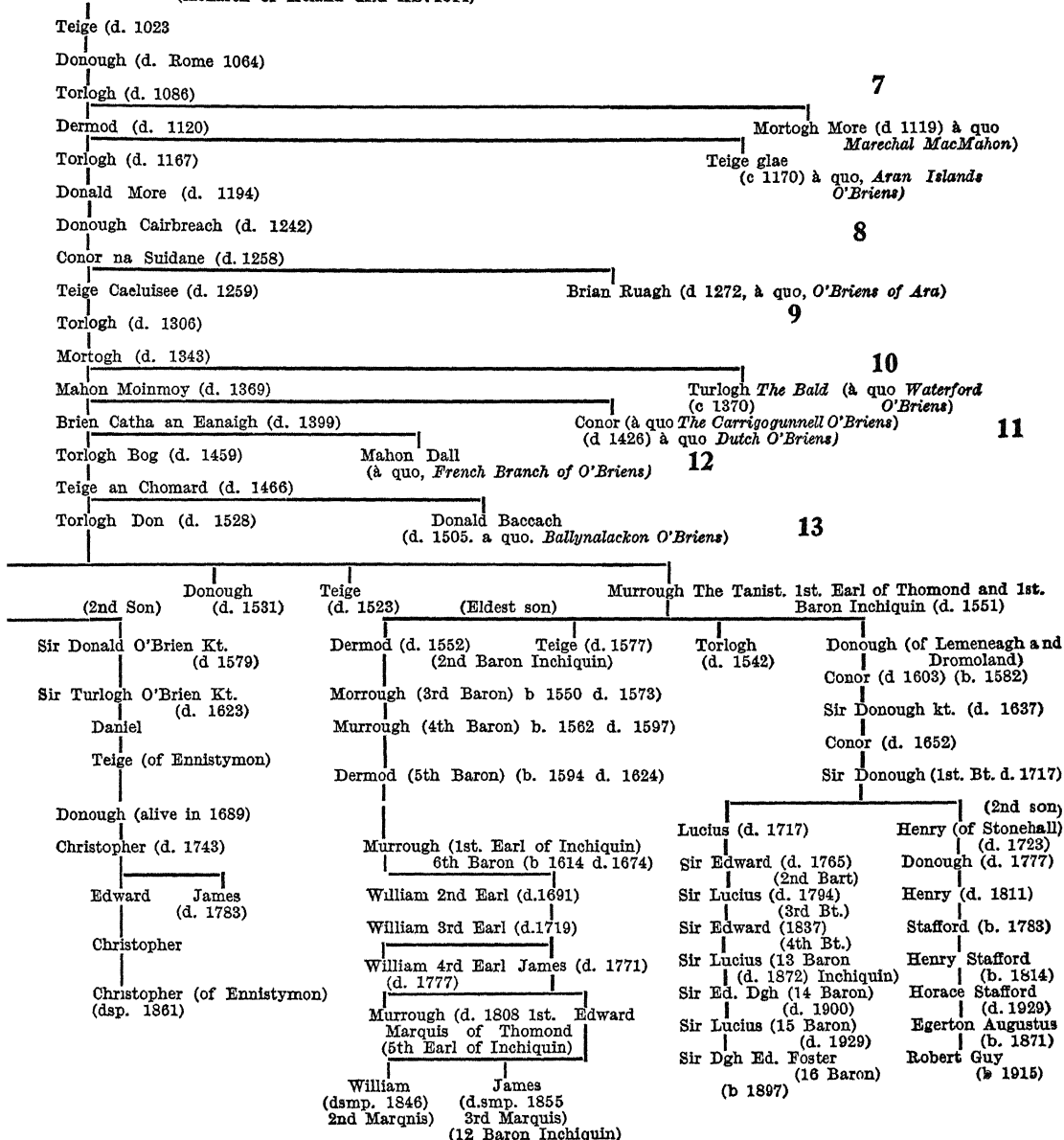
In priority left to right :-

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 7.—Marshal Mac Mahon.     | 11.—Carrigogunnell O'Briens (Pobble O'Briens). |
| 8.—Aran Islands O'Briens. | (à quo Dutch O'Briens).                        |
| 9.—O'Briens of Ara.       | 12.—French Branch of O'Briens.                 |
| 10.—Waterford O'Briens.   | 13.—Ballynalackan O'Briens.                    |



# ORDER OF PRIORITY, THE DESCENDING TURLOGH DON, WHO DIED IN A D 1528

**Brian Boroimhe** (Monarch of Ireland died AD.1014)





## GENEALOGICAL TABLES OF THE O'BRIENS.

It was intended to include in this volume the undermentioned pedigrees, but the difficulty of reproducing them within the limits of size of the work has rendered such a course impracticable.

Arrangements however have been made whereby for the present copies can be obtained from the publishers on application at the prices mentioned below. These copies consist of clear black line photostat reproductions of the same size as the originals. The pedigrees which are presented in clearly written script have been compiled exclusively by the author. They contain a great mass of detail of both names of persons and dates, arranged chronologically, and form a most useful auxiliary to the study of the text of the book.

The extent of the research involved in their compilation may be judged from the large number of persons' names, and of dates, included in these relatively large but easily handled sheets.

The size, number of persons' names, dates, and the prices of the respective pedigrees are as follows :-

	Size	Names	Dates	Prices
1. The Princes of Ireland, and their clans, being the native Irish Houses, including a list of the ancient monarchs of Ireland.	25"x20"	1350	300	£ 2
2. The long line of The O'Briens from the earliest times. ... ..	25"x20"	450	300	2
3. The Earls of Thomond, AD 1543 to 1774. ... ..	12½"x10"	170	160	30/-

4. The Viscounts Clare, AD 1600 to 1774. French branch of the Thomonds. ... ..	12"x6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	140	100	1
5. The Ennistymon O'Briens AD. 1543 to 1946. Extinct in the male line in 1861. ... ..	24"x10"	400	300	30/-
6. The Marquises of Thomond AD. 1800 to 1855. ... ..	12"x5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	90	110	1
7. The Barons and Earls of Inchiquin, created Marquises of Thomond in AD 1800 ; AD 1543 to 1946. ... ..	20"x12"	400	350	£ 2
8. The descendants of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Baronet of Dromoland Castle, who died in AD 1837. ... ..	20"x10"	450	550	2
9. Pedigree Catalogue of the Keightley, Clarendon, O'Brien, and Stuart pictures at Dromoland Castle, County Clare. ... ..	15"x9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	70	70	1
10. The Stonehall and Blatherwycke Park O'Briens, known, also, as the Stafford O'Briens. AD 1699 to 1946.... ..	10"x8"	90	60	1
11. The Dutch O'Briens. AD 1600 to 1946... ..	11"x8"	70	70	30/-

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*The Complete set of eleven photostats is supplied at the reduced rate of £. 14-10-0 All applications for copies must be addressed to the publishers : Messrs. B.T. Batsford Ltd. 15 North Audley Street. London W.1.*

## INTRODUCTION

### CHAPTER I.

Some ninety years have passed since John Donoghue published, in 1860, his important "Memoir of The O'Briens". In the interval it has become possible to record more of the family history, particularly from the sixteenth century to the present day.

This volume will be found to contain little family history before the accession to the monarchy of Ireland of the famous and distinguished king, Brian Boromhe, who was killed at the battle of Clontarf in AD. 1014.

Donoghue has ably traced that earlier period. It is not the intention here to repeat his task. But an historical account of the heads of the families and their times, is aimed at, in the first instance, to cover five centuries from Brian to his lineal descendant Turlogh Don, fifty-fifth king of Thomond, and twenty-eighth from Brian, secondly to give an account of the family from Turlogh Don, who himself, was inaugurated king about A.D. 1500, and was the common ancestor of the principal branches with which this book will have to do.

Among the branches, were the lines of the Earls of Thomond ; The Viscounts Clare ; The Ennistymon O'Briens ; The Marquises of Thomond, Earls of Inchiquin ; The Dromoland O'Briens, now the senior line ; and The Blatherwycke and Stonehall O'Briens. Each of them will be dealt with here in order of seniority, and it is hoped, that in this way each branch can be separately studied and at the same time the common outline of their history maintained.

The plan covers in all a period of nine hundred years. Some account is given of branches of the family which are offshoots from the main line prior to the time of Turlogh Don. Those are for the most

part short, because not much information is available of them, either because their historical record has been lost, or has become obscured with time.

Modern genealogical research in Ireland and on the Continent, may uncover interesting particulars of them. Of the six descending lines from Turlogh Don, four had accepted titles from the English crown ; these with the exception of the Barony of Inchiquin and Baronetcy which are borne by the present peer, have become extinct at the several dates that the lines expired in the male line.

No titles of honor, save two knighthoods, which Queen Elizabeth conferred on Sir Donald O'Brien, and on his son, Sir Turlogh O'Brien, were ever granted to the Ennistymon O'Briens, which ranked third from Turlogh Don. The fifth line, and now the senior extant line from the common ancestor, is represented today by Donough Edward Foster 16th Baron Inchiquin, who is also the 8th holder of the Baronetcy, granted to Sir Donough O'Brien in 1686. Lord Inchiquin is registered as the Chieftain of the O'Briens, at the Irish Genealogical office in Dublin, which a year or two ago took over the office of Ulster King of Arms.

The dates at which the four lines became extinct with their titles, save the Barony of Inchiquin, which passed to the Dromoland O'Briens at the death of the third and last Marquis of Thomond in 1855 were as follows :-

The Earls of Thomond in A.D. 1741.

The Viscounts Clare. A.D. 1774.

The Ennistymon O'Briens. A.D. 1861.

The Marquises of Thomond, Earls of Inchiquin. A.D. 1855.

It should be added that at the decease of the last and eighth Earl of Thomond in 1741, his kinsman, 6th Viscount Clare, of the second line, assumed his kinsman's title of Earl of Thomond, as he had a perfect right to do by blood descent, and was known in Paris and its Court as the 9th Earl, and his son after him as the 10th. Earl. But as the Clares died out in 1774, the Viscountcy of Clare and the Earldom of Thomond finally became extinct with the death of the 7th Viscount.

The English government did not recognize Clare's accession to the Earldom, as the latter's ancestor's title and estates had been confiscated in AD. 1691, following his support of the Catholic cause in Ireland, and Lord Clare's adherence to James II in Ireland, and participation on his side at the battle of the Boyne.

The Barony of Inchiquin was held by the Marquises of Thomond, whose representative of the line became 2nd Baron upon the death of Murrough O'Brien the Tanist in 1551, of which much will be said here.

The Barony became increased by an Earldom of that name in AD. 1654, when Charles II raised Murrough O'Brien known as the "burner", in the peerage as reward for his services to him, while an exile from England. The fifth Earl of Inchiquin was raised in AD. 1800 to a Marquisate.

It will be explained that Murrough the Tanist, youngest son of Turlogh Don and 57th and last king of Thomond, surrendered his kingdom in AD. 1543, to King Henry VIII ; and in that year was created, besides first Earl of Thomond for life, Baron Inchiquin for himself and the heirs male of his body.

The Earldom of Inchiquin and the Marquisate of Thomond, became extinct, while the Barony of Inchiquin which traced back to a common ancestor in Murrough the Tanist, passed to the Dromoland O'Briens, descendants from the Tanist's younger son Donough. Although the history of the O'Briens before Brian Boromhe is not written here, the monarch's ancestors have been traced in genealogical form from the earliest times for which a record exists, and also his descendants, by the author, and committed to twenty five genealogical tables or pedigrees, which are available in a few public libraries in Ireland and in the United Kingdom. It has not been possible to exhibit them as folders in this book, but they may be seen at Trinity College Library Dublin, the Library of the National University of Ireland, and the National Library of Ireland in Dublin. In the counties, at the Limerick City Library and at the County Council Library in Ennis ; also a few other libraries in Ireland including Cork University and Galway University libraries, which possess a few. In London, at the manuscript department at the British Museum, the College of Heralds, and the offices of the Irish Genealogical Research Society. In Edinburgh, at the University Library and at the National Library of Scotland. There are a few at the Library of Maynooth College, as also at Magee University College, and Queen's University, Belfast, Libraries.

In Wales at the National Library at Aberystwyth. For reference purposes it is thought that this information may be of interest to readers. One of special interest furnishes the key to the twenty three princely lines of native Irish houses. This genealogical table

shows the point at which many of the well-known Irish clans, branched off from those family lines.

The second most important is the long main line of O'Brien, showing a male line descent from earliest authentic history to the present Lord Inchiquin. The other pedigrees deal in particular with the six important lines of O'Briens referred to above, which are descended from Turlogh Don, with seven that branched off before his time. The remainder with minor branches and others which became domiciled abroad.

The pedigrees are mounted on card for convenience of readers. The information has been set out in a small compass, and great care has been taken to secure accuracy of names and dates, rendering them convenient to handle while reading the text of any history of Ireland, where O'Brien references are cited. An Irish historian said to the author, that the O'Briens figured in the past so much in the history of their country, that reference to them was almost unavoidable in historical reminiscence.

This, if not an encouragement may be accepted as an excuse by the writer for launching on the public another memoir of this illustrious family. Mr. John O'Donoghue in his "Memoir" says :-

"In no part of the kingdom can so many memorials of the energy and power of the native princes be found today, as in the territory of Thomond before it was restricted to the present County of Clare.

"The erection of the monasteries of Manister-Nenagh, Holycross, the Cathedral of Limerick, the Abbey of Ennis, and many others too numerous to mention, devoted to the devotion of learning and piety, exhibit to the modern traveller proofs of the genius and vigour of the descendants of Brian. And notwithstanding," he goes on to say. "the various changes which the state of society has for so many ages undergone, and the downfall of so many of the ancient families of the Country, we find the descendants of Brian of the Tributes still holding their own ; while we may search in vain even among some of the royal houses on the continent of Europe for a line of greater antiquity, or one whose descent is more clearly traced through the historic records of their country, than that of which this work (he refers to his "Memoir of The O'Briens") purports to record the history."

The representatives of the Irish manuscripts Commission have recently made a preliminary examination of the papers and documents of the family at Dromoland Castle, Lord Inchiquin's seat in

County Clare, from which it results that a government publication may be expected in due time, embodying the result of its searches made in the muniment room of the Castle. It will be on the lines of the "Ormonde", and the "Kenmare" papers, published in book form, and should be of antiquarian interest, and reveal some interesting old documents and correspondence, which have been accumulating, and been hidden from general knowledge, since the sixteenth century.

In these circumstances, it has been suggested to the author by members of his family, and others who have attributed to him a knowledge of O'Brien family history, to write a history of the O'Briens, which might bring matters up to date, and furnish a convenient background and complement to such a publication.

The O'Brien line, as appears from the first of the two genealogical tables in which the 23 Native Irish Houses are set out, is now the senior line of the descendants of Milesius, who was King of Spain and whose sons became kings of Ireland about BC. 1500. The Mac Carthys and the O'Briens were alike descended from this King's eldest son Heber ; but with the break in the male line descent of the MacCarthys, the O'Briens have since occupied the position of primogeniture in the direct male line from that Monarch. Milesius had three sons, Heber, Ir and Heremon. Little information is available of the descendants of Ir, but Heremon was the progenitor of many famous lines, such as the O'Neils, The O'Connors, The O'Reillys, The O'Malleys, and others. The first three of these were kings of Ulster, kings of Connaught, and Princes of Brefney. The MacCarthy branch from Heber enjoyed the titles of the Earl of Clancarty and Lord Muskerry. The title of Earl of Clancarty was re-granted in AD. 1803 to William Poer Trench, an ancient French family, that had settled in Ireland in AD. 1631 on the grounds that his grandmother Elena was last of this line of Milesius, and the daughter of Cormac Oge MacCarty. The Barony of Muskerry held by the fifth holder in 1936, was a creation of AD 1781, and was granted to a member of the Deane family, who came from Deane's Fort, County Somerset in the time of James I. The present Earls of Clancarty are not of Milesian stock in the male line.

It is interesting to read what Mr. John Burke had to say of the MacCarthys and O'Briens, who trace their descent from Heber, in his "History of the Landed Gentry or Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland", published in 1837.

Inter alia :- "Guelph, the German patriarch of our Royal family  
 "lived in the eleventh century, but the private families of Germany  
 "can rarely trace so far back. In Italy indeed, loftier pretensions  
 "appear to be sustainable, especially those of the patricians of  
 "Venice, amongst whom Elletorali or twelve families who elected  
 "the first Doge in AD. 700, enjoyed preeminent distinction, although  
 "in antiquity of descent less illustrious than those inscribed in the  
 "Book of Gold, at the founding of the city. Those, Voltaire deems  
 "entitled to the first grade of European nobility, ascending as they did,  
 "to the fifth or sixth centuries. The Houses of Massini, Ursini, Fran-  
 "gipani, Colona, etc. at Rome, anteceded perhaps any in France,  
 "Spain or Germany ; but after strict investigation and poising the  
 "facts fairly in the balance of historical criticism, few of the Conti-  
 "nental nobility will be found to be superior in origin, if parallel  
 "to the O'Briens, the O'Neills, the McCarthys, the O'Connors, of  
 "Ireland, whose progenitors were sovereign princes on the arrival of  
 "the English in 1172". "No epoch" continues Mr. Burke, is better  
 "attested than the reign of Brian Boromhe, the conqueror of the  
 "Danes, at the decisive battle of Clontarf on the 23rd. April, 1014.  
 "This monarch was coeval with Hugues Capet, which without further  
 "retrogression (and many prior generations could be indisputably  
 "established) would place his descendants in a co-incident line with  
 "the royal houses of Europe of the greatest antiquity - even with the  
 "Bourbons, incontestably the oldest of all. Brian's posterity numerously  
 "and unquestionably exist, as do the representatives of the other  
 "Irish princes, whose claims are as demonstrable by reference to  
 "authenticated testimony as any historical event of the era".

NOTE : Study of No 2 genealogical table, "The long line of the O'Briens from the earliest times", mentioned as obtainable from the publishers on page 9, renders this chapter of the book more easily understood.

## CHAPTER II.

### THE BATTLE OF CLONTARF : BRIAN BOROIMHE, SLAIN AD. 1014.

Brian Boroimhe is described in the "Four Masters", as "this great and victorious prince". When he was a young man at his brother Mahon's court it is said of him that he was impatient of inaction seeing all parts of the Country overrun by the Danes.

He conceived the idea of carrying on a kind of partisan war against these foreigners. With this end in view he formed a small corps of only one hundred brave young noblemen, attended by their servants, at the head of whom he always posted himself, at passes and defiles, where he hoped to catch the enemy on his plundering excursions, or as they marched or counter-marched from one post to another. During one of these small mountain wars, Brian, in one of his expeditions, attacked a Danish Officer called Birinus, who commanded a party of a hundred men, and killed him with fifty of his number. This occurred near Craig-liath, close to the town and regal seat "Bael Boromha". Some say that it was from this seat that Brian took his name. The town was afterwards enlarged and therein he built his famous palace of Kincora (Ceanncora).

We have visited the sight of the ancient fortress which has a commanding view over the Shannon at Killaloe ; it is overgrown and trees grow round it but the ancient ramparts show clearly, where it stood.

There is no trace of the Palace, which was situated near the Cathedral of Killaloe, and high above the level of the town.

The fortress ramparts are a mile away from where the Palace stood. Between the two it is said that Brian kept an enormous stabling of horses, and attendant staff. The place well deserves a

visit. Killaloe is easily reached by an efficient motor bus service to and from Limerick in half an hour or forty minutes.

At another encounter King Brian in another part of Thomond, called Breantir, killed another Danish Officer, named Owen, and cut off to a man his whole party that consisted of sixty men.

At a third, he surprised and killed one Eloys with fifty Danes at a place called Deargret.

Thus he continued his little war against the Danes, until his small party was reduced to fifteen.

With these he returned to his brother Mahon, whom he had urged to redouble his efforts against the invaders of the kingdom. This work, thus begun, was an earnest of what fell to the lot of Brian in later life, when he accomplished the glorious work of the entire reduction and extirpation of the invaders.

To the annals of Tighernach, the annals of Innisfallen, and the *Chronicon Scotorum* we owe much of the accounts that we can give of Brian's career.

His brother Mahon was murdered by The Donovan and Brian set himself to avenge him. He marched against him into the centre of the County, engaged him and his Danish auxiliaries, who were commanded by Aulavius King of the Danes of Munster, and left him and Aulavius dead on the field, and scarcely a man remained alive.

Maolmuadh Mac Brain and his brothers had been the immediate perpetrators of his brother Mahon's murder. Brian marched in quest of him who had 1500 Danes on his side. They met at Bealach-Leachta. It was here that his eldest son, prince Murrough, first showed his budding military genius, encountering with his father's consent Mac Brain in a hand to hand fight in the heat of action, whom he killed.

These two actions with which Brian Boromhe began his reign as King of Munster are referred to the years 977 and 978.

In the former of these two years he gave battle to the Danes of Limerick on Scatterry Island in the Shannon.

Here he slew eight hundred Danes together with their commander the son of Harold and his two sons. Subsequently he visited all the islands on the Shannon, that were possessed by foreigners, killing or making prisoner such of them as had been obstinate enough to oppose his victorious arms.

Much enriched with their spoils he returned to his Palace at Kincora. In 979 Daniel O'Felan King of the Danes, encouraged

by the Danes in Waterford, rebelled against Brian, and was rash enough to risk a battle against him near the town of Waterford. There Daniel lost his life and his troops were cut down, together with the flower of the Danish army.

During the next few years Brian was constantly engaged in harrying the Danes, fighting many important battles, displaying his military genius which finally reached its height at the famous battle of Clontarf near Dublin, when the Danes were finally defeated in one of the most remarkable battles in history, of which we shall give some account. It finally shattered the Danish pretensions to dominate Ireland, and restored to the Irish the liberty and freedom to enjoy their country, that had so long been in jeopardy.

In 982 Malachy King of Tara invaded the territory of Thomond, and by way of bravado cut down the famous tree of Magh-Adhair, under whose boughs the Kings of Munster were inaugurated. The following year, assisted by the Danes of Dublin, under command of their King, Gluniaran, who was his half-brother, he invaded the province, and proceeded to spoil Leinster.

Brian took revenge on those repeated insults, marched against Malachy, who not daring to risk a battle delivered to him all the hostages he had taken in Munster, and solemnly bound himself in treaty never to molest him in future in the possession and sovereignty of the provinces of Munster and Leinster, and of the City of Dublin and the Danish territories in its environment.

In breach of his treaty Malachy invaded Munster in 994, and in the following year Brian chastised him by overthrowing him in pitched battle.

In 998, we find Brian and Malachy, marching with united forces against the Danes of Dublin, having between them struck an agreement to work together. Tribute and hostages were delivered to Brian by the Dublin Danes.

In 1001 Brian is found at the head of the forces of Munster, Connaught, Leinster and the Danes of Dublin, marching to Tara where Malachy, who had rebelled against Brian, paid him homage, delivered him hostages and acknowledged him the sovereign King of all Ireland.

So Brian, in this year, commenced his reign as monarch of all Ireland, inaugurating a span of 150 years, during which the Sovereignty of the country rested with the family of O'Brien. It may be said for the benefit of some readers who may not know it, that Brian, now

Boroimhe, instituted the practice of surnames. This practice spread to Europe, and became general. Much confusion had arisen in the past by the use of alternate Christian names with nothing to indicate to which family the holders belonged. It came about that certain Christian names occurred repeatedly.

On examination, for instance, of the O'Brien lines there occurs frequently, Conor, Donough, Conor, Donough. In another line is found, Donald, Murrough, Donald, Murrough ; often into several generations without a break. Eldest son to eldest son, and downwards. It appeared in lines of close kinship, which added to the confusion. This habit is found in almost all the lines of the twenty three Native Houses of Royal descent. Brian seems to have seen the necessity of introducing, what are now called surnames, to improve the family classifications.

Hence, his sons, for the first time were styled "O'Brien", meaning descendants of Brian. His brother Mahon's descendants were styled MacMahon, "Mac" standing in the place of "O". And so as the practice became general, all the clans in Ireland followed suit.

By cutting off the "Mac", or the "O", the key name of the family is found, and can read back genealogically to the ancestor whose son first adopted the prefix.

Brian Boroimhe is said to have been a deeply religious man, it is recorded of him that after marching into Meath and receiving homage from all the petty princes, he repaired to Armagh, where he remained an entire week performing acts of devotion, offering a gold collar of twenty ounces weight by way of alms or pious offering on the great altar of Armagh (Ardmagh). In 1006 he forcibly brought away hostages and tribute from Haithbhiortach O'Neill.

After these actions, Brian and his entire Monarchy enjoyed the blessing of profound peace for some years, which time he spent in enacting wholesome laws, and establishing a system of police throughout the Realm.

At Dromoland Castle, the seat of Lord Inchiquin are four bog oak tablets, probably of the 15th Century, depicting four episodes in the life of the Monarch. One relates how a young and beautiful lady, rode unattended from one end of Ireland to the other, wearing fine raiment and costly jewels, yet, "no attempt was made upon her honour, or to divest her of the clothes and jewellery she wore" ; so peaceful were the times. Another, shows the Monarch feasting, with his attendants in his tent ; in another he is seen lying mortally

wounded on the battlefield. The battle of Clontarf is raging ; and the Bishop of Innis Cathay (Scattery Island on the Shannon River) is administering the last Sacraments to the dying King.

The fourth tablet, depicts the funeral procession, wending its solemn way to the Abbey of Swords, the coffin held high, and attended by many elders of the Church. Here the wake took place ; and he was afterwards buried at Armagh.

In 1011 Brian Boroimhe made several pious foundations, for Churches throughout all Ireland, and annexed portions of lands for the subsistence of the respective clergy, who were to occupy them.

Brian spent much time at his Palace of Kincora at this time, or at least as much as the exigencies of war allowed him. It was his headquarters.

In 1014 the King of Leinster sided with the Danes and they conspired together to land very considerable Danish auxiliaries from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Orkney Islands, the Islands of Shetland, the Hebrides, the Isle of Man, the Isle of Lewis, the Isle of Sky, Cantire and Caithness, both at and near the City of Dublin. Brian marched at the head of the army of Munster, joined by the troops of Meath and Connaught. They encamped near Kilmainham within full view of the enemy.

The night was spent in preparation for a general action, and Brian's army at the first appearance of daylight was on the plain of Clontarf facing the enemy who had just received further support from the Prince of Tara and his men.

Brian had no sooner reconnoitred the order of his enemy's battle, than he divided his army into three separate columns. The first was composed of the tribe of the Dal-Cas, under the particular command of Brian in person, and of his son Murrough. His four other sons by name Conor, Flann Teige (Terence) and Donald, had also a principal share in the command of this corps. In the second division were the men of Connaught under the command of Teige Prince of Connaught, who were supported by a strong body of Munster troops.

Brian's third division was composed of the Eugenians and Desians. While Brian was employed arranging his army in order of battle, he addressed his troops on the necessity of distinguishing themselves in the action against the foreign enemy, who for years had been their perpetual oppressors, and murderers of their Kings. "I am convinced" he is recorded as saying, "that your valour and conduct will this day put an end to all the sufferings of your dear

country by a total defeat of those sacriligious and merciless tyrants. And what proves providential in our favour is, that we shall take full revenge of them for their constant acts of treachery, and for the profanation of so many churches this Friday in Holy week, on which Jesus Christ suffered an ignominious death for our redemption, who will undoubtedly be present with us as a just avenger of his Holy religion and laws". With these last words, he showed them his crucifix, which he held in his left hand, and sword in his right, intimating thereby that he was willing to sacrifice his own life in the assertion of so just, so honourable a cause.

With that he issued orders for his army to fall upon the enemy with sword in hand.

The Danes and Leinstermen, after the loss of most of their commanders and troops, but not before the fortunes of the battle had swayed in favour of one or the other side, gave ground and fled for shelter to Dublin, and to the ships. Few arrived, as they were hotly pursued by Brian's men, who slew many of them.

The Irish at this supreme moment had the woeful misfortune to lose their famous Monarch Brian, who was showing prodigies of valour, as well as of military skill in the general command of his army during the whole action, and pursued the enemy at the head of his corps. There he was struck down by Brodar, general of the auxiliaries from Denmark, by the stroke of a Battle-Axe ; but Brian at the same time gave him a thrust of his sword, of which the Dane immediately expired.

Brian's eldest son Murrough, at the age of 63 years, did wonders in this action, it is said, killing with his own hand several Danish officers of distinction, among whom were Carrol and Anrud, the two sons of the King of Norway, as also Conmael and their famous commander. He also killed Sitricas the son of Lodar, Earl of the Orkney Isles, and Chief Commander of the insular Danes, "by dividing him", as the story is recorded, "into two equal parts through his coat of brass, from his head to his rump with a single blow of his military axe" (sic Giraldus Cambrensis, *Topograph, Hiberniae distinct.* 3 cap. 10.)

These hand to hand contests were the rule of the day and we find another description of such a fight between Murrough and the Norwegian Prince Anrud.

Anrud made towards him with sword in hand ; Murrough endeavoured to parry his passes, and then taking fast hold of him with his left hand, he lifted him off the ground, and shook him clean

out of his coat of brass ; then prostrating him, he leaned upon his sword with his breast and pierced it through Anrud's body. The Norwegian it is said, in the meantime had drawn Murrough's knife from his belt, and gave him a mortal wound, of which he soon expired, after having made his confession, and received the holy Communion body of Christ. This method of battle between Champions had existed in the heroic days of the Greeks and Romans.

It is said that the troops in the battle were so intent on the slaughter, that no prisoners were taken, which we can well believe.

The Annals of Innisfallen give the number of killed in the battle of Clontarf on the side of the Danes and the king of Leinster and his men, at 13,800 men, that is to say 4,000 of the Danes of Dublin and Ireland, 6,700 of the Auxiliary Danes, and 3,100 of the forces of Leinster. On Brian's side it gives 4,000 as the number killed in the engagement, besides many wounded. The Chronicon Scotorum which gives but a very short sketch of this battle, still gives us a very good idea of the obstinacy with which it was fought, by saying :- "That the like battle, or any equal to it, had not been fought in Ireland for many ages".

Besides the distinguished head of the O'Briens, his illustrious son Murrough with his son Turlogh a youth of 15 years, there were several other Irish commanders of distinction killed by the enemy.

Young Turlogh O'Brien fought valiantly during the day in his father's division, side by side his elder relatives. After the battle he was found drowned at the fishing weir of the river Tolka, with his hands entangled in the long hair of a Dane, whom he had pursued into the tide at the time of the great flight.

Some authorities differ as to the exact manner in which Brian Boroimhe met his death. It is said by one, that the aged monarch was resting in his tent, engaged in earnest prayer, while he listened to the din of battle without. That he was accompanied by a single attendant, named Laiten, while outside the tent was set a guard, who joined in the pursuit of the Danes, which had developed into a flight, believing no danger remained to the King. But Brodar who had fled from the battlefield, came with some followers at this moment to the tent. "I see some people approaching," said Laiten. "What manner of people are they ?" asked the King. "Blue and naked people," replied the attendant. "They are Danes in armour," said the King, and rising from his cushion, he drew his sword.

Brodar rushed upon him with a double-edged battle-axe, but was met by a blow of the heavy sword of Brian, that cut off both legs, one from the knee and the other from the ankle. But the furious Viking, even while falling, mortally wounded the Monarch with his axe.

Conuing son of Donnchuan, Brian's brother's son, Motla ; Nial, son of Cuinn, and Cudula son of Kennedy, who were Brian's most intimate favourites, and aide-de-Camps in the battle were killed. The monks of the Abbey of Swords came immediately to the battlefield on hearing of the Monarch's death. They took his body and that of his son Murrough to the Abbey, afterwards bearing them to the religious house of St. Kieran at Dulek. Thither came Marianus, son of Eochaidh, the Archbishop of Armagh, accompanied by his clergy. With great solemnity they conveyed the bodies to the Cathedral Church where they offered masses for the repose of their souls, continuing their sacrifices, prayers, and watchings over the bodies, for twelve days and nights without intermission.

Later the body of Brian was interred in a monument of hewn marble at the north side of the Cathedral church. The bodies of Murrough and his son Turlogh, and of Conuing son of Donnchuan, were interred in another tomb at the South side of the same church.

And so passed in A.D. 1014 one of Milesius' greatest sons, an ornament of his line, an object of veneration of Irishmen and students of Irish History and of affectionate regard by his descendants.

A mighty general, who won innumerable battles in the cause of freedom for his country ; a sound lawgiver, who administered the realm with justice, and efficiency ; raised a police force to maintain law and order internally, and powerful armies to defend his country, and offend its foreign enemies.

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What was considered, in the very earliest times, a qualification to be considered Monarch of Ireland, as Brian was in A.D. 1012, nine hundred years later than "Con of a hundred battles", is shown by an entry in The Annals of Clonmacheise at the year 1041 about 25 years after Brian's time. It reads as follows :- "The Kings or Chief Monarchs of Ireland were reputed and reckoned to be absolute Monarchs of Ireland in this manner : If he were of Leith Con, or Con's half in deale, and one province in Leith Mogha or Moy's half in deale at his command, he was to be of sufficient power to be King of Tara, or Ireland ; but if the party were Leith Mogha and Taragh with the lordship thereunto belonging, and the Province



*Brian Boroimhe, — Monarch of Ireland — Printed for Bazaleal Creak in 1726 at the Bible in Jermyn Street, St. James Street, London, and illustrated in Dermot o'Connor's translation to English of Dr. Jeoffrey Keating's general history of Ireland in the Irish language. Published in 1726 by Bazaleal Creak, and dedicated to William O'Brien, 4th Earl of Inchiquin.*



*Mortogh More O'Brien, great grandson of Brian Boromhe; was king of Ireland, and died in A.D. 1119.*



*View of Dromoland Castle, County Clare, Ireland, the seat of Lord Inchiquin,  
head of the O'Briens (East aspect)*



*The Hon. Donough O'Brien, 4th son of 14th Baron Inchiquin, the compiler of twenty five Geneological tables of branches of the O'Briens, and the author of this history of the family.*

of Ulster or Connaught (if not both) he would not be thought sufficient to be King at all." Con's half and Moy's half, as the Northern and Southern territory of Ireland became known, occurred in the following manner.

Dispute for the Sovereignty of the whole of Ireland is recorded to have taken place between Con of the "Hundred Battles", King of Ireland, and Mogha Nuadhat, King of Munster. The former was descended from King Milesius' third son, Heremon; and the latter from his eldest son, Heber. After a long and indecisive struggle for the Sovereignty, they eventually agreed to a partition of the Island, in virtue of which each was to be supreme in his own moiety. The Northern division was called, "Leathcuin", or Con's half; the Southern "Leathmogha", or Mogha's half.

This division although it lasted for practical purposes little more than a year, that is to the death of Mogha Nuadhat, who was killed in the Battle of Moylena, fought against Con of the hundred battles, in the next year, A.D. 167, has continued in Ireland as a popular and well-known description of the Northern and Southern portions of the Country up till now.

As has been said, Brian Boroimhe was a deeply religious man. Amongst copies of the Gospels and other portions of the scriptures, that were either written or owned by eminent Saints of the early Irish Church and were treasured with great veneration by succeeding generations, is the "Book of Armagh", now in Trinity College, Dublin.

It is almost as beautifully written as the Book of Kells, which is also there. It was written by Ferdomnach of Armagh, a scribe who finished the work in AD. 807. It is chiefly in Latin with much old Irish interspersed.

It contains a life of St. Patrick; some notes on his life by Bishop Tirechan; a complete copy of the New Testament; and St. Patrick's confession, in which the Saint gives a simple account in Latin of his mission in Ireland. The confession was copied by the scribe Ferdomnach from the handwriting of St. Patrick.

On this famous book Brian Boroimhe caused a decree to be entered, which can still be seen. The occasion was in the year AD. 1004, ten years before his death in AD. 1014, when he arrived at Armagh and made an offering of twenty ounces of gold on the altar of St. Patrick. He then confirmed the ancient ecclesiastical supremacy of Armagh, causing his secretary Mailsuthain to inscribe this decree on the Book.

## CONTEMPORARY IRISH AND ENGLISH KINGS

a Kings of Thomond from Brian Boromhe who was 27th king of Thomond, were monarchs of Ireland in succession to one another.

Contemporary English Kings, and important events, shown in parallel with the Irish Kings. The invasions of England by Danes took place from AD. 783 — 1074.

Brian Boromhe (monarch of Ireland) d 1014. and Donough, joint monarchs their father Brian's death 23, when Donough reigned till he died in 1064. Donough took the Crown and regalia and to the Pope and died Stephen's monastery Rome.	{	Ethelred II d 1016.	{	Saxon.	The battle of Clontarf in 1014 when Brian finally defeated the Danes in Ireland.
		Edmond Iron side d 1017 Canute d 1035. Harold I d 1040.			
Brian O'Brien, King of Ireland d 1086. (son of Teige above)	{	Hardicanute. d 1042 Edward The Confessor d 1066.	{	Danes.	
		Harold II d 1066 William The Conqueror d 1087 William Rufus d 1100.			
Brian More, King of Ireland. d 1119. Brian O'Brien, King of Ireland. d 1120.	{	Henry I d 1135	{	Saxon.	The Battle of Hastings 1066. Domesday 1086.
Brian na Catharach, King of Ireland. d. 1142 Brian O'Brien, King of Thomond. d. 1167.	{	Stephen d. 1145 Henry II d. 1189	{	Norman.	Mortogh Mor granted his Royal Residence on the Rock of cashel to the Irish Clergy 1101
Brian Mor O'Brien, King of Thomond d 1194. Brian Cairereach O'Brien, King of Thomond d. 1242	{	Richard I d. 1199. John d 1216 Henry III. d 1272	{	Norman.	Thomas a Beckett murdered 1170 Charter to elect a Mayor granted to Limerick by Richard I. 1198 Magna Charta signed 1215.
Brian na Suidanc, King of Thomond d 1258. Brian Caeluisee, King of Thomond d. 1259 Brian O'Brien, King of Thomond d. 1306.	{	Henry III d 1272 Henry III d 1272 Edward I. d 1307	{	Plantagenets	Wales joined to England 1282
Brian O'Brien, King of Thomond d. 1343 Brian na Moimoy, King of Thomond d. 1369.	{	Edward II d 1327 Edward III d 1377 Edward III d. 1377	{	Lancaster	Battle of Bannock Burn 1314 Battle of Dysert O'Dea, Co. clare in 1318 ; defeat of the English and expulsion from Thomond for 200 years.
Brian Catha an Ainaigh, King of Thomond d. 1399. Brian O'Brien Bog. King of Thomond d. 1459.	{	Richard II d. 1399 Henry IV d. 1413 Henry V. d. 1422 Henry VI. d. 1461	{	Wars of The Roses.	1455-1485.
Brian na Chomard, King of Thomond d. 1466. Brian O'Brien Don, King of Thomond d. 1528	{	Edward IV. d. 1483. Edward V d. 1483. Richard III. d. 1485 Henry VII d 1509 Henry VIII. d. 1547	{	York.	Papal rule thrown over in England 1534.
Brian O'Brien, 57th and last King of Thomond, created in 1543 Earl of Thomond and Baron Machiquin by Henry VIII. (d. 1551)	{	Henry VIII. d. 1547. Henry VIII d. 1547 Edward VI. d. 1553	{	Tudors.	The Reformation 1547.

The names of ten kings of Thomond are omitted here whose reigns were short and unimportant.

The Danes retained their hold over England for 30 years after their defeat and expulsion from Ireland by Brian Boromhe at Clontarf in 1014. They contributed four kings to England.

### CHAPTER III.

#### FROM BRIAN BOROIMHE TO TURLOGH DON.

AD. 1014 to 1528.

Brian Boroimhe's son, Donough, ruled Ireland jointly with his brother Teige, after their father's death. In AD. 1023 Teige was murdered ; and Donough was said to have had a hand in the murder ; and reigned alone till about 1064. He then repaired to Rome and took with him the crown and the regalia of Ireland, seeking absolution from the Pope. The latter granted his request, but before entering the monastery of St. Stephen, in Rome, where he died, he deposited the Crown and regalia and his father's harp with him.

The first two were returned to Henry the Third by Pope Adrian, but the harp to Henry VIII. It is said that king Henry VIII cared as little for the monasteries as he cared for the harp, for which he had no use, as he could not play upon it. He gave it to Lord Clanryckard, in whose family's possession it remained until the middle of the 19th. century, when it passed to the care of The National Museum in Dublin, where it can be seen today. Donough was created Prince of Thomond by the Pope. A large stone slab, upon which is carved an inscription to his memory, is set in the wall of the rotunda of St. Stephen's Church in Rome, which can be visited.

Donough was given a grant of a few acres of land by the Pope, bordering on the Lake of Bolsano, not far from Rome, where he resided in preparation for entering the monastery. It is interesting to note, that on a small hill on the borders of the lake is a stone monument or tower commemorating the ex-king. It was erected by Murrough O'Brien, first Earl of Inchiquin, known as "Tothaine" (he was raised in the peerage from Baron Inchiquin to Earl of that name in 1654 by Charles II for his services on the Continent in the Royal cause).

Murrough in penitence for his burning of the Catholics at Cashel, and ravishing the countryside of Ireland, repaired to Rome, as had done his great ancestor before him.

The Pope ordered him to show proof of his repentance. He did so by erecting the monument to St. Donough, which has been kept to this day in a tolerable state of repair.

The land and monument now belong to Captain O'Brien-ffrench, the second Marquess of Castelthomond, whose father the first Marquess, created such by the Pope in 1893, acquired it from the widow Edward O'Brien, his kinsman ; this Edward was a brother of Lucius, 13th. Baron Inchiquin, and of William Smith O'Brien, M.P. Edward O'Brien had purchased it unaware that only a catholic could own it ; so ownership was passed on to the Marquess of Castelthomond.

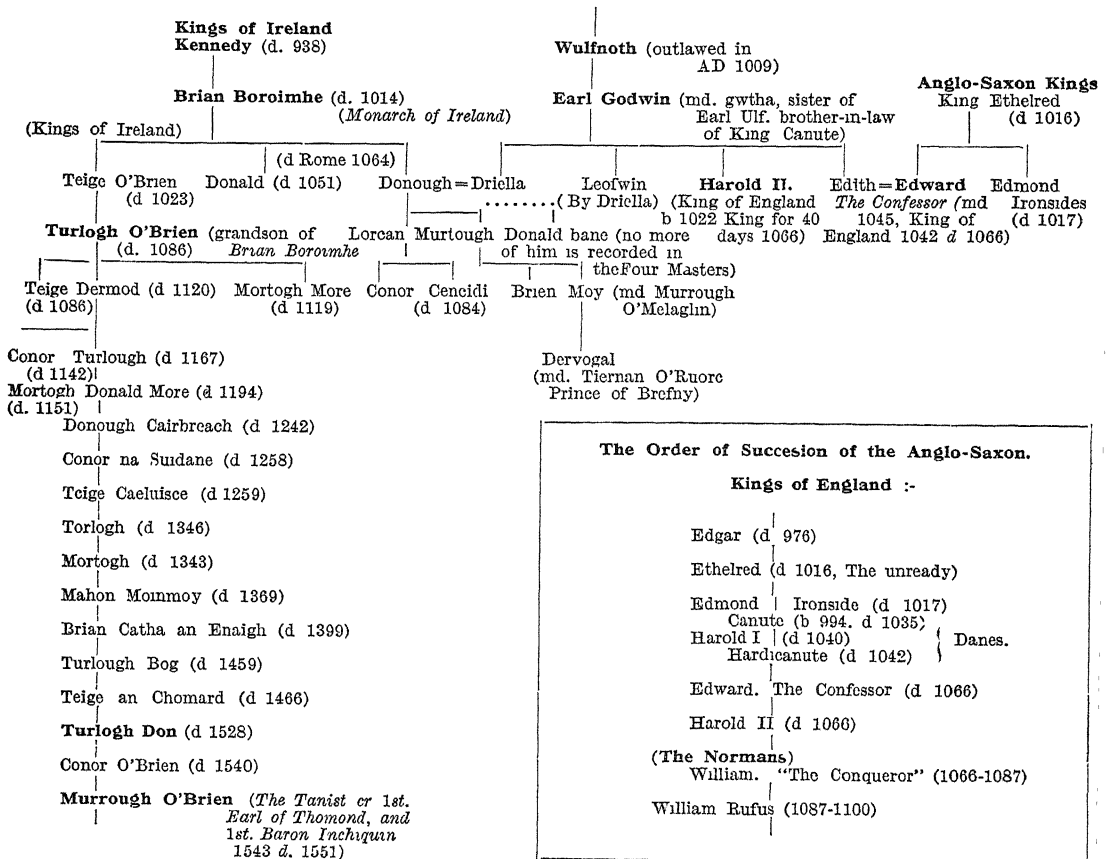
By the courtesy of the present Marquess, Captain O'Brien ffrench, we have seen the deeds relating to the transfer, and the plan of the terrain and tower, which is attached to them. Thus, after eight hundred years King Donough's parcel of land near Rome has passed again into the family's possession.

King Donough married twice, his second wife was Driella, sister of King Harold, the last Saxon King of England. It may be of interest to tell the circumstances of Harold's visit to Ireland to crave military help from Brian's son.

On the expulsion in AD. 1051 of the famous Earl Godwin and his family, by Edward the Confessor for the opposition given by the Earl and his sons to the King's too great partiality for and advancement of Norman adventurers and intriguers in England, Godwin and some of his sons retired to Flanders ; while the others, among whom was Harold, future King of England, sought asylum in Ireland.

There Harold was compensated for the hostility of one of his brothers-in-law, Edward The Confessor (who was married to his sister Edith) by the reception that he met from the other, Donough O'Brien, King of Ireland son of the famous Brian Boroimhe. Donough supplied him with a body of troops and nine ships for the liberation of his country, and the restoration of his family. With this aid, Harold set out from the Isle of Wight, with his father and brothers from Flanders in AD. 1052. and with the help of their countrymen, regained their former honours and estates. Thus they effected the downfall of the Norman clique at the Court at Westminster.

**PEDIGREE SHOWING THE CONNECTION OF THE  
IRISH ROYAL FAMILY WITH THE ANGLO-SAXON ROYAL FAMILY  
IN THE 11TH CENTURY**



**Turlogh King of Ireland** (*see above*), who died in 1086, furnished King William Rufus from County Clare, with the timber for the roof of Westminster Hall from Oxmantown Wood.

By Driella, Donough had a son called Donaldbane, but beyond noticing his existence, the Four Masters omit further reference to him. See chapter XXI for an account of the Four Masters.

Turlogh O'Brien was the nephew of Donough and the son of Teige. He was proclaimed King of Munster in AD. 1064, in which year St. Donough had been dethroned ; and before his death in 1086 he was principal King of all Ireland. He died at the Palace of Kincora and his body was buried in the church in Killaloe. This church can be visited, but not much of the original building remains. Turlogh's Eldest son, Teige, who was King of Munster, died at Kincora soon after his father in AD. 1086.

Teige's second son Donald came next and according to the annals of Ennisfallen, was made King of Man and the Hebrides in AD-1105. Evidently a bad administrator, he was dethroned and expelled in 1108, but strange as it may seem, Turlogh O'Connor, the King of Connaught in 1115 exercised his power to set him up in the throne of Thomond. Still stranger, at the end of the same year, Turlogh O'Connor put him to death.

It is interesting to observe the nature and make-up of homage given in these times. The above King Turlogh O'Brien, who died in 1086 received homage in 1082 of Donnfliebhe, Prince of Ulidia. The latter came to O'Brien's court in Limerick, attended by his nobles and received 1,000 cows, 40 ounces of gold, 120 coloured cloaks, and other royal presents, to denote his vassalage and dependancy.

Two or three years previously O'Maolfeachlin, Prince of Tara had come to his Palace at Limerick and obtained his pardon and probation through the medium of the archbishop of Armagh, who accompanied, presenting him to King Turlogh O'Brien.

Those strange customs make queer reading in our times. Turlogh's daughter Mor, married Roderick O'Connor, and became mother of Turlogh O'Connor, King of Connaught. Here we see a union between two of the most important native Irish Houses of Ireland, a useful combination in those days of strife and excursions.

Donald was succeeded by his uncle, Mortogh Mor O'Brien, who was proclaimed King of Munster in 1086 and is known for his convening of all the clergy and nobility of Ireland at a place called the Grove of Aongus. A council was held there under the direction of the Pope's legate Maolmuire Archbishop of Cashel and of Ceallus, son of Aodh (Hugh) the son of Maoliofa Archbishop of Armagh.

According to the *Chronicum Scotorum* the number of the clergy in this celebrated Council was fifty eight bishops, three hundred and seventeen priests, one hundred and sixty deacons, and a large number of lesser clergy.

In the same year a particular council was held by the clergy and nobility of Meath, over which presided Giolla, abbot of Clonmacnoise. Its principal work was reducing the smaller dioceses of that province to two, Clonmacnois and Clonirard. Mortogh died in AD. 1119 a penitential death at Lismore, and was buried at the Church of Killaloe, resigning the government to his brother, Dermot O'Brien. Mortogh Mor was surnamed the Great. He granted the Rock of Cashel to the clergy, which had hitherto been the Royal Residence of the Kings of Munster. He supplied King William Rufus in 1086 with a number of oak trees from Oxmantown Wood to construct the roof of Westminster Hall.

His second son was Mahon from whom are descended the MacMahons of Corcobaskin, who are consequently of O'Brien blood. From him is descended Marshal MacMahon who became President of the French Republic from 1873 to 1879. The author has compiled his pedigree showing his descent.

Mortogh's younger brother Dermot was now proclaimed King in AD. 1116, but lived only four years. He had married Mor the daughter of Roderick O'Connor, by whom he had six sons ; the eldest, Conor na Catharach, succeeded his father.

Conor's younger brother, Teige Glae, was the progenitor of the branch of the O'Brien family, who were the ancient possessors of The Isles of Aran, off the coast of Galway and Clare. More about this branch is found in chapter IX. Conor was proclaimed King of Munster in AD. 1120, and was generally acknowledged Monarch of Ireland. He was so styled by foreign writers, as is borne out from the ancient records in the Abbey of Ratisbon, better known in our time as Regensburg, as communicated to Cambrensis Eversus by Hephamus Vitus of whom the great man makes honorable mention in his "British and Irish Antiquities".

Conor built several cities, castles and royal seats ; Cahir Castle, once the seat of Lord Cahir in County Tipperary, and Cahir-Con, situated on an island in the Shannon, called Conchubhair from his christian name. He showed great zeal and piety in building churches and monasteries. He founded, built and endowed the Abbey of St. Peter at Ratisbon in Germany. The Abbey records show that

Isaacus and Gervastius, who were natives of Ireland and of noble extraction, with whom were joined Carpentarius and Guilielmus, both of Scottish origin and natives of Ireland, after having paid their respects to Conor O'Brien, King of Ireland, explained to him their reason for visiting Ireland.

They were graciously received and sent back to Germany laden with a large treasure of gold, silver and other presents.

Other Irish princes before their departure made very considerable donations of various kinds. The record continues ;

“they had been sent to Ireland as legates from Dionysius, the Abbot of St. Peter’s Abbey at Ratisbon, who was a native of Ireland, to ask for supplies and arms from the princes of his country, By the help of those pecuniary supplies (sent to him from Ireland), the Abbot purchased a piece of ground in the city of Ratisbon, sufficient for building a new Abbey at the east side of the town”.

There appears an account of the building in the record :-

“The erecting of the spacious cloister of fine workmanship, abound- ing with stately turrets, walls, pillars and vaults and with such speed, is attributed to the immense sums of money furnished for this pious purpose by the King of Ireland, and by other princes of that nation”.

That Conor O'Brien was the actual founder of the Abbey is especially proved by the following passage of its records :-

“Christianus, abbot of the Irish abbey of St. James at Ratisbon, who was a man of noble extraction, being descended from the illustrious family of the MacCarthys, after the treasures which had been sent by the King of Ireland to Ratisbon were exhausted, and his religious family were in extreme want, at the solicitations and requests of his necessitous brethren, came to his native country of Ireland to beg for some charitable supplies for his poor family, from the most Christian and devout Irish King Donal, and from the other princes of that nation, since Conor O'Brien, who was the founder of the Abbey of St. Peter and St. James at Ratisbon, had been dead some time before”.

King Conor’s magnificence and wealth, as well as his relations and alliance with the foreign powers of his time, appear equally from another passage of these records of Ratisbon, where it is mentioned ;

“that by a number of Counts and Knights of great power and nobility, and wearing the holy badges of the cross, who he sent away to fight against the infidels in the Holy-land, he sent an immense quantity of rich presents to Lotharius the Roman Emperor”.

Besides being described as 'Conor an Catharach', he was also nicknamed, Slaparfalach, or Spattered-Robe, from his piety and energy in building churches and monasteries. So attentive was he personally to the work, that he was wont to mount the scaffolds to inspect the masonry, on which occasion his robes were unavoidably spattered with the mortar.

Conor died in 1142 AD. and was buried in the cathedral church of Killaloe in the grand vault of the O'Brien Kings. His brother Turlogh succeeded him in AD. 1142, who died in AD. 1167. In his reign the Palace of Kincora was burned down, in AD. 1151.

He was succeeded by Conor's only son, Mortogh O'Brien, a most warlike King, who in AD. 1150 engaged in several local wars, wasting and spoiling and taking hostages from the Prince of Ossory. He invaded Connaught bringing thence much spoil and many prisoners of war.

He then marched into the territory of Leinster, where he was victorious. But Dermot MacCarthy was fully determined to take revenge on the King of Munster's depredations, and invaded the territory. He received strong reinforcements from his tribe, and risked battle with O'Brien, but was overthrown.

The Dal-Cassian prince made full use of these circumstances and continued his depredations ; but revenge was to follow. The O'Brien princes took their repose near Cork, and early next day marched through Moin-Mor northwards, little expecting danger to their forces. They were, however, suddenly met with and attacked by the united armies of nearly all Ireland.

There was fought the bloody battle of Moin-Mor, in which this renowned Mortogh O'Brien. King of Thomond, together with the flower of the Dalcassian nobility were killed. It is said that very few of the sept cried for quarter, or forsook the battle field. Amongst those who fell in the battle were the King's second cousins, Conor and Luidhig, sons of Donald-Gear Lambeah, King of the Danes in AD. 1135, and who was the son of Mortogh Mor the Great just mentioned. But the weakening of the power of the O'Briens in Munster resulted from the defeat, and its after effects continued for some years. Donald Mor, the second son of Turlogh and Mortogh's first cousin now became King. In AD. 1170 he fought several engagements with Roderick O'Connor the Chief of the O'Connors, who was being assisted by strong parties of English adventurers under the com-

mand of Robert Fitz-Stephens, which were sent to him by Dermot MacMurcha, King of Leinster.

In AD. 1171 Donald More O'Brien paid homage and delivered hostages of obedience to (Roger) Roderick O'Connor, notwithstanding his alliance with the English and their base encourager the King of Leinster.

That same year he swore homage and allegiance to King Henry II of England, soon after his landing at Waterford.

The Abbey of Knockmoy in County Galway, six miles from Tuam should be visited to see the curious frescoes on the walls. It was founded in AD. 1189 by Cathal O'Connor of the Red Hand, King of Connaught.

The frescoes depict three dead kings, also one of (Roger) Roderick O'Connor, monarch of Ireland with a piece of shamrock in his hand, also a figure of Christ on the Cross, and a Brehon (Judge) reading sentence of death on MacMurrough his son for the crime of his father siding with the English.

The boy is tied to a tree and archers are shooting arrows at his body, which is transfixed. Roderick O'Connor has on either side of himself his grand Falconer and grand Marshal. They are kings, but his vassals. The frescoe is about 20 feet long.

Two years later Donald More O'Brien retracted his homage to the King, and attacked Kilkenny Castle in Ormond. But Roderick O'Connor dethroned him from the sovereignty of Thomond, setting up in his place the son of Murrough, who was half brother to himself the said Roderick.

Dr. Leland rightly observed :- "in the midst of internicine contests and commotions, Ireland seemed ready to be subdued by the first foreign invader who should attempt the conquest of an inviting country".

In AD. 1176 he made peace with Roderick O'Connor after having paid him homage, and delivered hostages of obedience. Sides changed hands so quickly at this time, that we find in AD. 1188 Donald Mor O'Brien and Connor O'Connor gained a decisive victory over the English under the command of John de Courcy.

In AD. 1192 he gave the English a total overthrow at Thurles, killing many knights.

Donald Mor died in AD. 1194, and was buried at Killaloe. He had five sons including Mortogh-Finn, who died in AD. 1239, from whom are descended the clan, Mortogh Fionn O'Brien. His brother

Considine O'Brien, bishop of Killaloe, who died in AD. 1194, was the progenitor of the Considine O'Briens, who were powerful in County Clare in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. In 1770, Fi, the son of William O'Brien was living at Castle Brian in the County, a part of the Bishop's estate. They became known as the McConsidines.

Donald Mor married Urlean (or curled hair) the daughter of Dermot, King of Leinster. His eldest son, Murtoth Dall is said to have been the first to introduce the English into Munster in AD. 1177. He was King of Munster and died in AD. 1239. Donald Mor founded many churches in Ireland. He founded Killone Abbey in AD. 1190, six miles from Ennis in County Clare, on the borders of New Hall lake. It is a well preserved ruin and is cared for by the Irish ancient monuments preservation Commission. It is of grey stone, and is set on a green bank of grass, which slopes to the lake, approached by a long winding road, rising and falling to view and is beautifully situated. Killone is still used as a burial ground, and should be visited for its lovely setting and historical past. There are many interesting tombs such as of the MacDonnells, Darcys, Englands and O'Keefes. Donald Mor's grand-daughter, Slaney O'Brien, who died in AD. 1260 was abbess here.

He founded St. Mary's Cathedral at Limerick in AD. 1172 where is a stone-carved tomb to his memory. He followed this by founding the Abbey of Corcomroe in AD. 1182, situated in the north west of the County for the Cistercian Order; also Clare Abbey in AD. 1193 for the Augustinians. This Abbey may be seen from the train set back from the railway line, about one mile out of Clare Castle on the way to Ennis. It is on the right hand side. Thus, St. Mary's, Corcomroe, Killone, and Clare Abbeys were founded by him in AD. 1172, 1182, 1190 and 1193. In the short space of twenty one years to have founded four abbeys is an achievement and speaks loudly of his religious zeal. The buildings must have taken some years longer to complete.

Donald More also founded, in the Parish of Killadysert, on the Island of Inis-na-Comanach, or Canon Island, an Abbey Church of considerable size for Canons Regular of the Rule of St. Augustine.

In 1194 Donald transferred to Briccius, Bishop of Limerick, the last of the Danish Bishops of Limerick, the territory of Mungret to the use of the new Cathedral of St. Mary's in Limerick. This Bishop, in the 30 years of his occupancy of the Episcopate, had seen many changes brought about by the Norman invasion. He was one

of the Bishops who assented to the rules put in force by Henry II at the Synod of Cashel, and saw the building of the Cathedral in progress.

It was designed in early English style, replacing the Hiberno-Romanesque manner of architecture to be observed in Cormac's famous chapel at Cashel.

The grant by King Donald O'Brien took place in AD. 1194, as appears from the early manuscript of that date.

"Donald, King of Limerick, to all the faithful of God as well  
"present as to come, greetings. Know ye all that I have granted to  
"Bictius, Bishop of Limerick, and his successors, and to the Clergy  
"of St. Mary's, Limerick, in free and perpetual alms the land of  
"Imungram (Mungret), and the lands of Ivamnach ; that is from  
"the arch of Imungram to the lands of Imalun (now Knockgaul),  
"and from the ford of Cein, to the river Shannon, with all their ap-  
"pendices ; and in ratification of this my grant in Frankalmoigne,  
"I confirm it with the impression of my seal".

From now on the appointments to the Episcopate of Limerick were made under Norman influence. The "Annals" assign the first landing of the Danes at Limerick to AD. 831, when started two centuries of Norse occupation of the area, and ravaging of the district of Thomond. Ninety years later they plundered two great Shannon sanctuaries, Iniscaltra, now known as Holy Island, and Clonmacnoise (AD. 920).

Twenty five years later Cellahan, King of Cashel, defeated the Danish Anlaf and his allies in the hills of Singland (AD. 945), and their power was diminished for the time. Elsewhere, in this book is seen how Brian Boromhe finally defeated and drove the Danes from Ireland at the Battle of Clontarf in AD. 1014, after pursuing and harrying the marauders on many previous occasions, and over a number of years.

Donald's second son Donough Cairbreach O'Brien became the next King of Thomond. He suffered a reverse of fortune, being dispossessed of the town of Limerick ; he had entered into an alliance with the English, which ended fatally for himself and his family. He lived at Carbery, but was obliged to fix his residence further west at Clonroad, near Ennis. Of the old castle, there is little remaining, having fallen to ruins. His residence at Clonroad has been described as an earthen fort, of a round form, and this fort continued for generations to be the principal house of the O'Briens. He was the

first who was styled "The O'Brien". He was regranted the kingdom of Thomond by King John at his surrender.

By an act, done at the Tower of London on the 18th. July AD. 1222, in the 6th year of Henry III, the King of England, "confirmed him in his kingdom of Thomond, as against all others of his brothers, who might lay claim to his kingship". His surrender to King John had made him very unpopular with his kinsman, who had forced him to retire to Clonroad.

From this Act of AD. 1222, for three hundred years the Chiefs of the O'Briens were styled "Kings of Thomond", until Murrough O'Brien, the tanist, surrendered finally in AD. 1543 to King Henry VIII. Donough Cairbreach O'Brien died in 1242 and was buried at Killaloe. He was succeeded by his eldest son Conor na Suidane. Donough had founded Ennis Abbey for Franciscan Monks in AD. 1240, and his father Donald Mor, Holy Cross Abbey near Thurles in AD. 1189 with the other Abbeys mentioned. The latter was founded in honor of the Holy Cross. Mortogh More O'Brien, former monarch, had received from Pope Paschal II in AD. 1110 a piece of the Cross covered with gold and ornamented with precious stones. He deposited it in the Abbey. On the south side there is a monument to Donough Cairbreach O'Brien. He had purchased from King John for himself and his heirs forever the lands and Castle of Carrigogunnell, which is situated on a hill seven miles from Limerick on the Limerick side and a mile from the Shannon. It commands a fine view as far as Foynes and the junction of the Shannon and Fergus rivers. It is worth a visit for the view alone. Bunratty Castle, on the other side of the Shannon is in full view, Edward I granted the latter in 1277 to Thomas de Clare. It became a century later the stronghold of the O'Briens, Earls of Thomond. In AD. 1310 it belonged to Richard de Clare ; for we read that Donough O'Brien, King of Thomond, and de Burgh, laid siege to de Clare in the Castle of Bunratty. de Clare sallied out, and on the hill above the castle, defeated his assailants. In 1318 his widow burned it down on hearing that her husband had been killed. Brian Catha an Eanaigh King of Thomond, who died in 1399, rebuilt it in 1397, from which time till the death in 1741, of the 8th Earl it remained in possession of the Earls of Thomond.

To go back, we can notice Turlogh, who was the sixth son of Donald More, and ancestor of the clan Turlogh Fionn. This branch lived to the east of the Shannon in the country called Ive-Bluid,

which included at a later date, Ara and lower Ormond. His descendants were the principal lords and proprietors in this district.

In about 1780 a writer records that a genealogical Irish manuscript copied in the year AD. 1714 finds that John O'Brien was then the representative of this branch, and still enjoyed a part of the family estate, which was called Cluain-i-Brien in Ara, where he resided.

This writer was informed that one Kendal O'Brien was living then and was John O'Brien's grandson and heir. The descent of Donald more's fifth son, Donal Conachtach is given in the manuscript. He says as follows :-

"John, son of Teige was son of Murrough, son of Mahon, son  
"of Teige, son of Donough, son of Donal Duff, son of Donogh an  
"Ghleanna, son of Murrough Riabhach, son of Donal Glas, son of  
"Turlogh, son of Brien, son of Mahon, son of Brien, the son of  
"Donal Conachtach".

Donough Cairbreach O'Brien was so called from his having been educated in the district of Cairbre-Aodhbha, near Kenry in the County of Limerick. He married Sabia, the daughter of Donough O'Kennedy of Ormond, surnamed Fithchille from his skill in playing chess.

He was succeeded as explained by his son Conor na Suidane in AD. 1242. In AD. 1257 Conor marched into Burrane a part of northern Clare, celebrated for its rocky surface and lack of soil in which trees can grow. General Ireton, when he had with difficulty passed that way with his troops, whose feet were bruised by the strong pathways through the hills at the time of his penetration of that region in AD. 1650 said of it, that the country was such that there was no water to drown a man in, no tree to hang one on, and no earth to bury him in.

With Conor were the chiefs of O'Dea and O'Hair. The descendants of Donal Conachtach, under the command of Conor Carrach O'Loughlin, Prince of Burren, gave him battle at a place called Suidane, where he was killed in AD. 1258 ; and from this place posterity gave him the surname of Na Suidaine. His body was solemnly interred in the Abbey of Corcam-Ruadh, called now Corcamroe, where to this day can be seen a fine stone monument to him with a statue of him wearing a crown, which was raised to his honor.

Before he died there were signs of danger ahead from English invaders, and the times were ripe for closing the disputes amongst local princes. Conor called a general meeting of the provincial kings

of Ireland at a place called Cael-Uisce on Lough Erne, near the Castle Calwell. He was unable to attend personally, but he sent his eldest son Teige, who became surnamed Cael Uisce, to represent him in the assembly.

As the best means of resisting the English, it was proposed that one supreme king of Ireland should be acknowledged, with full powers vested in him, to call out and command the forces of the whole country. Mr. James Frost in his "History and topography of the County of Clare", published in 1893, says :-

"This was agreed to, but when it came to the selection of "the supreme ruler, a contest arose between O'Neill and O'Brien, as to "which of the two should be the man to be chosen. O'Neill's right was "regarded as paramount and unquestionable, but O'Brien would not "yield and as a consequence the conference, he says, broke up without "arriving at any definite settlement of the question. Since Ireland was "first inhabited unto the present day", says Frost "no act more "fatal to her true interest ever happened than this".

"The opportunity was lost never to return, of annihilating the "power of England then in its weakness".

"The example of Brian Boroimhc, who by means of his sole "sovereignty over the whole island was able to extirpate the Danes "was forgotten by his descendant, Teige Cael-Uisce, and by his act of "vain folly, the island had since remained a scene of anarchy, fomen- "ted by the machinations of the unscrupulous stranger".

Teige died in AD. 1259, the following year.

Brian Roe O'Brien, the second son of Conor na Suidane who was the ancestor of the Mac-I-Brien Ara branch of the family, succeeded him and was inaugurated king of Magh Adhar. From him, eighth in descent, Mortogh du Harra, come the O'Briens of Kilcor, and the O'Briens of Pellick Castle in County Cork. Teige Cael Uisce's son Turlogh being a minor. So for nine years Brian Roe was permitted to reign unmolested. Thomas de Clare, son of the Duke of Gloucester, who was then at Cork, and who had received from Edward I a grant of all the land he could conquer in Munster came to an agreement with Brian Roe, that de Clare should have all the land between Limerick and Atholas, on condition of rendering assistance to Brian in his endeavour to retain the Chieftaincy. About that time de Clare built Bunratty Castle (AD. 1277) ; a ghastly tragedy occurred within its walls about then, and following a battle that took place at Moygreasan.

One Patrick FitzMaurice was the brother of de Clare's wife. This woman believing that her husband's defeat had been occasioned by their connection with Brian Roe O'Brien, persuaded de Clare to invite him to Bunratty and then to assassinate him.

It was done according to her wish and the murder was consummated in circumstances of peculiar atrocity. The parties were gossips. They had sworn mutually to defend one another, with the most solemn rites. They made oath upon bells and crozier, and upon the relics of the saints ; blood was drawn from the veins of each, and mingled in a vessel ; the Holy Eucharist was divided between them.

In spite of these guarantees, O'Brien was torn to pieces by horses by the command of his savage confederate. Such was the horror excited by this savage act, that it was referred to as a proof of English perfidy, in the elegant memorial presented a few years afterwards to Pope John XXII by the Chieftains of Ireland.

At Brian Roe's death his nephew, Turlogh, inaugurated himself king. He died in AD. 1306 and his son Donough was unanimously chosen to rule in his stead. It is recorded that Donough O'Brien and de Burgh, in AD. 1310 laid siege unsuccessfully to de Clare, in his castle at Bunratty. Donough died in the following year and Mortogh his brother succeeded him. The first few years of Mortogh's reign were taken up in Thomond by the struggles of the O'Briens amongst themselves, which is not important enough to examine closely. The year 1318 was of importance, because the battle of Dy-cert O'Dea near Ennistymon in County Clare was fought, in which de Clare lost his life, when his army was annihilated by the O'Deas and the expulsion of the English from the county began.

De Clare called together his partisans, English and Irish, the latter under the command of Brian Bane, who was nearly the only one of his race that had escaped death at Corcamroe. They were signally defeated and there fell in the battle four knights, Sir Henry Capel, Sir Thomas Naas, Sir James Caunton and Sir John Caunton. This victory rid the County of Thomond of everything Saxon for two centuries.

De Clare's body was removed to Limerick, and buried in the Franciscan church there. De Clare's widow hearing of the loss of her husband and son, set fire to the Castle of Bunratty and set sail for England. Mortogh died in AD. 1343 and was succeeded by his

son Mahon Moinmoy, who died in 1367, and was the ancestor of the Thomond and Inchiquin branches of the family.

His brother Turlogh Mael (The Bald) succeeded him, who was the ancestor of the Waterford O'Briens. He was deposed in AD. 1370 in favour of his nephew Brian Cathan Aonagh ; very little information is given of him by the Annalists, and he died in AD. 1399.

During the long interval between the expulsion of the English in 1318, and the surrender in AD. 1543 to King Henry VIII, there is not much to record of importance in Thomond.

Brian Catha's successor was his brother Conor, of whom nothing is handed down deserving of mention. But from him descend the "Pobblebrien and Ahelow O'Briens" also called "Carrigogunnell O'Briens". From Conor's younger brother, Teige Baccach, descend the "O'Briens of Ballyardan".

He was succeeded in AD. 1426 by his nephew Teige na Glamore, who died in AD. 1444. Nothing is handed down of him, except that he was succeeded by his brother Mahon Dall (The Blind) in AD. 1438, who died in AD. 1462. Mahon Dall's son Donough was progenitor of a French branch of the O'Briens, members of which were living in Paris in 1871.

Mahon Dall was attacked and deposed in AD. 1446 by his brother Turlogh Bog (The Soft). The latter enjoyed the sovereignty for thirteen years to AD. 1459 when he was succeeded by his nephew Donough, Bishop of Killaloe.

Donough had to give way in two years to Teige an Chomhaid, of Coad on the lake of Inchiquin; the latter had an uncle, Brian Catha, whence descend the McFaddens, ancestor of the O'Briens of Eachdroma.

About now the power of the English in Ireland was at a low ebb, owing to the contests at home and the Wars of the Roses, and Teige an Chomard joined forces with other chieftains to drive out the English settlers. In this he was very successful and it is hinted by MacFirbis in his annals that the people of Leinster had a project for raising O'Brien, like his ancestor Brian Boroimhe to the throne of Ireland. He had hosts of troops at his disposal and made good use of them. Teige an Chomard died at the castle he had built for himself on Lake Inchiquin in AD. 1466. It is finely situated near the water overlooking the lake, the other side of which is bounded by a high hill with extensive woods and luxuriant undergrowth down to the water's edge. A road makes a complete round of the lake rising on

the opposite bank three or four hundred feet from the water in which good fishing is obtainable. It is specially renowned for its large lake trout and is a favorite resort for fishermen in summertime.

The Castle of Inchiquin remained occupied till the time of Cromwell, when much damage was done to it, and it was later abandoned as a place of residence. We find it inhabited in AD. 1542 by Turlogh second son of Murrough the Tanist, and in AD. 1580 by Murrough the 4th Baron Inchiquin, who also had a castle at O'Brien's Bridge on the Shannon above Limerick, where he lived from time to time, but which has now completely disappeared.

Teige an Chomard was succeeded by his two brothers in turn, Conor Mor an Sron, who died in AD. 1496 and by Turlogh Oge, who reigned only three years and died in AD. 1499.

He was succeeded on the throne by Turlogh Don, who reigned in Thomond for twenty nine years, till he died in AD. 1528. Conor Sron was the ancestor of the "Sealeudhe O'Briens"; his daughter Finola O'Brien married Hugh Roe O'Donnell, chief of Tirconnell, son of Niall Garb O'Donnell. They founded the monastery of Donegal in AD. 1474, where was written the "Annals of the Four Masters" finished in AD. 1636. His brother, Turlogh Oge, was the ancestor of the "O'Briens of MacDoody". (The Annals Chap. XXI).

Turlogh Don's brother, Donald of Carruduff, who died in AD. 1503, was the ancestor of the "O'Briens of Ballynalacken". His long reign had been uneventful, and there was nothing of importance to record as passing in Thomond. Of Turlogh Don, the four Masters say :

"The O'Brien, the son of Teige an Chomard, who of all the Irish in Munster had spent the longest time in acts of nobility and hospitality, the worthy heir of Brian Boromhe in maintaining war against the English, died after unction and penance".

With his death, the five hundred years from Brian Boromhe to Turlogh Don ends and his sons, Conor, and Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist and last king of Thomond, open up the last four hundred years of O'Brien family history.

## THE ABBEY OF HOLY CROSS FOUNDED IN AD. 1189

*by Donald Mor O'Brien King of Thomond.*

It has been explained that Holy Cross was one of the many abbeys founded by this King.

It became famous in the three kingdoms and abroad as a place of pilgrimage where was enshrined a piece of the true cross presented in AD. 1110 by Pope Pascal II to Mortogh Mor O'Brien King of Ireland and grandson of Brian Boroimhe. Pilgrims came from afar to venerate the sacred relic in the abbey.

Two poor hermits had originally taken up their abode on the site on which the abbey was eventually built. Holy Cross abbey seems not to have come under the general ban of the suppression of the monasteries by Henry VIII, but only in the 5th year of the reign of queen Elizabeth in 1563. But in 1538 the abbot Philip Purcell, following the Edict of 1536 by King Henry for the general suppression, surrendered Holy Cross and accepted a pension and the revenue for his life. He also conformed to Protestantism and led an irregular life it is said till shortly before his death in 1563, when he returned to the faith and was buried in the abbey.

At intervals the monks suffered religious persecution, but at long intervals except in the time of the Commonwealth and after the treaty of Limerick (1691) returned to take up their lives of prayer and meditation.

There are charters affecting the foundation of the Abbey, of which the most important is that of AD. 1182, containing the grant of lands for the abbey by King Donald Mor O'Brien.

The three subsequent charters of 1186, 1233 and 1340 confirming this grant, by king John, Henry III and Edward III, are also in existence.

The Charter of King Donald O'Brien, at Kilkenny Castle, dated AD. 1182 when Gregory was abbot, reads :-

“Donald by the grace of God, King of Limerick to all kings, dukes,  
“earls barons, knights and other Christians in whatever rank they may  
“be throughout Ireland, everlasting salvation in the Lord.

“Know ye all good Christians that I have given and this my  
“Charter confirmed for ever... (here follows a description of the lands

“and appurtenances transferred)... in honour of the Almighty God and  
 “of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Benedict and the Holy Cross, for  
 “the salvation of my soul and the souls of my parents, in fields, in  
 “woods, in pastures, meadows, waters, fisheries and mills, wholly,  
 “entirely, freely and peacefully to the monks of the Holy Cross in  
 “the presence of Gregory, the Lord Abbot”.

The confirmation of this grant is contained in the Charter of King John, dated 1186, which is thus recorded :-

“King John, Lord of Ireland, confirmed the grant of King Donald  
 “ordering and directing that the monks of the Abbey should enjoy all  
 “charters, liberties and freedoms.”

The witness' name was, Albinus O'Molloy.

And on the 30th September AD. 1233, Henry III confirmed the charter of King John and took the Abbey under his protection, renewing his protection again in the following year.

Lastly, in AD. 1340, Edward III gave the following charter to the Abbey :-

“Edward by the Grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland.  
 “Duke of Aquitain, to all to whom these presents shall come greeting,  
 “know ye that brother Thomas Abbot of the Church of Mary of the  
 “Holy Cross, near Cashel came into our chancery of Ireland in the day  
 “after the feast of Michael the Archangel in the 13th year of our reign,  
 “at Cashel, and exhibited to our said Chancery a certain charter not  
 “cancelled nor in any-way vitiated, under the seal of John, formerly  
 “Lord of Ireland, Earl of Morton, in these words :- John Lord of  
 “Ireland, Earl of Morton to all Justices, barons, as well French, as  
 “English, Welsh and Irish, and all other liege men of Ireland, greeting:-

“Know ye that for the love of God and for the salvation of my  
 “own soul, and the souls of my predecessors and successors I have  
 “granted and given and by these presents do grant and give to God  
 “and the Blessed Mary of the Holy Cross, and to the Cistercian  
 “monks serving God there, in free, pure and perpetual alms the  
 “under written lands as fully and freely as Donald O'Brien King of  
 “Limerick, gave and granted and by charter confirmed them to the  
 “Cistercian monks of Holy Cross, to wit.....(here follows the  
 “description of the lands and appurtenances confirmed to have been  
 “granted)..... These lands I have given for the salvation of my soul  
 “and those of my predecessors “and successors, and the souls of my  
 “soldiers who lie buried here, to enjoy peaceably with all liberties  
 “and free custom, without any secular exaction in fields, ways, for-  
 “ests, fisheries etc...

“I have also granted that they shall be free from all mulcts in my  
 “courts for what cause soever they shall be amerced ; and also free

“from all toll, whatever they shall sell and buy for their own use  
“throughout my land of Normandy England, Wales and Ireland, and  
“that their lands be not put in plevine”.

“Witness :-       A Bishop of Ferns  
                      John de Courcy de Angals.,  
                      Biddel, Chancellor,  
                      David of Wales.”

The Abbot was styled Earl of Holycross, was a baron of parliament, and usually Vicar-general of the Cistercian order in Ireland.

In the wall of the transept above the arch of the chapel next the chancel is inserted a King's head, crowned and bordered on either side by carved pillars or supporters. It is believed to represent the head of King Donald Mor O'Brien the founder, who granted the original charter of AD. 1182 referred to above.

There is a MS. now deposited in the museum of St. Patrick's College in Thurles, known as the “*Triumphalia Chronologica Coenobii Crucis etc.*” written by brother John (Malachy Hartry) a Cistercian monk of Holy Cross Abbey in 1640. In the MS. appears a coloured drawing depicting, a tree to which the severed hands of two robbers are attached while their bodies are falling to the earth. The MS. tells a legend of the two hermits who lived in a cell near the site of the Abbey. While one was engaged in prayer, so goes the story, not far from their dwelling, he was attacked by four robbers who believed that they possessed considerable riches, and demanded them to be handed over.

When the hermit remonstrated protesting that they were only poor folks the robbers demanded, that they be shown proofs of some virtues and the heavenly favors given to them, that had been reported of them among the people, so that they might also bear testimony of them.

“Make that large tree yonder bend down its top, so as to touch the earth”, they demanded. Again the hermit remonstrated with them but unsuccessfully ; whereupon he called on God and the Saints to witness that if he failed to perform the miracle he should suffer instant death.

Immediately the tree bent towards the earth threatening to crush the robbers beneath, who in order to save their lives, put up their hands, which clung so closely that they were unable to let go, and so perished.

The MS. recites that Donald Mor O'Brien seated on a fine horse and accompanied by a large crowd arrived on the scene and

ordered the bodies of the robbers to be cut down, leaving the eight hands attached to the tree.

The king was so impressed with the miracle, it is said, that he at once decided to found the monastery of Oghterlamhan, or Eight hands.

There is a monument to Lady Margaret O'Brien, a sister of Donough 4th Earl of Thomond on the bridge nearby the Abbey. The "Triumphalia" of 1640 refers to it. Brother Malachy narrates that Philip II of Spain sent in 1604 ships laden with munitions of war to Hugh O'Donnell Earl of Tyrone, one of the ships having on board a statue of the Virgin made of cedar wood.

The ship was wrecked off the Clare coast and the statue was later recovered by some fishermen and came into the possession of Lady Margaret, who was the wife of the 2nd Lord Dunboyne, who presented it to Abbot Bernard Foulow.

Later on the Abbot constructed a beautiful altar over the arch of the high altar of the Church in which the statue was placed. There is a mural tablet inserted at the west end of the bridge, which crosses the river Suir. It has in relief their two shields, being the arms of Lady Margaret and Lord Dunboyne, and the inscription reads :

"I.B. and M.B.

"Ad viatorem - Nicholas Cowli me fabricavit Jacobus Butler  
"baro de Dunboyne et D. Margareta Brien, ejus uxor hunc  
"pontem collapsum, erexerunt, suis insignibus adornarunt, 'Anno  
"Domini 1626.

"Dic precor ante abitum verbo, non amplius uno, evadet  
"stygios auctor uterque lacus'."

"To the traveller - Nicholas Cowli constructed me. James Butler, baron of Dumboyne, and Lady Margaret Brien his wife rebuilt this bridge which had fallen, and adorned it with their arms in the year of our Lord 1626.

"Say, I pray you, before you depart, this short prayer, may both who built it escape the Stygian lake.

## THE ROCK OF CASHEL.

In county Tipperary, it was once the headquarters of the O'Briens, where the kings of Ireland from Brian Boromhe's time, and from time immemorial the kings of Thomond, had been crowned on the famous stone on the rock. It became the diocese of the Archbishoprick of Cashel upon being granted to the church by Mortogh Mor O'Brien king of Ireland in AD. 1101.

The old stone circular forts to be found in every part of Ireland, mostly in the South and West, are still in good condition, and were known as, Lis, Rath, Brugh, Dun, Caher, and Cashel.

Hence the name "Cashel" applied to this ancient fort situated some few miles from Holycross Abbey.

King Brian Boromhe and his brother Mahon made use of this Cashel about AD. 964 as their headquarters to make raids upon the Danes from the interior of Ireland, who at that time held the principal harbours of Cork, Waterford and Limerick. In that year Mahon, elder brother of Brian, was inaugurated King of Munster. Here these two brothers collected all their forces and formed their encampment designed to make raids on these intruders.

In AD. 1101 Mortogh Mor O'Brien, King of Ireland, granted the old city of Cashel to the Church, and changed the former chief residence of himself and his ancestors to Limerick, which after that time continued to be the seat of the Kings of Thomond. The Rock of Cashel now contains on its summit the most interesting group of ruins in Ireland, and stands out prominently on the countryside being visible from far away on approaching by road. Ten years after the grant, King Mortogh caused a Synod to be held at Fad-Aengusa in Westmeath in AD. 1111 which was attended by 50 bishops, 300 priests and 3,000 clergy of inferior orders as well as by King Henry I himself, and the two archbishops of Armagh and of Cashel; and sixty years later in 1171, Cashel was the scene of the surrender of Donald Mor O'Brien, King of Thomond, to King Henry II. A synod was called the following year when every archbishop and bishop gave sealed charters to King Henry conferring on him and his heirs for ever the kingdom of Ireland, which charters were confirmed by Pope Alexander. At the same time the legal system of England as practised there was offered and accepted by the assembly. The same year as Donald

surrendered other princes followed suit, but Roderick O'Connor did not surrender himself to the King in Dublin, but sent his submission. O'Neill of Ulster did neither.

Cashel seems to have been dedicated to religion in the times of paganism, for on the site of heathen fanes the early christians generally erected churches, and it may be supposed that Cashel was not an exception.

The Kings of Munster and Thomond were proclaimed on a large stone near Cormac's stone chapel and the Cathedral, which latter was built by king Donald O'Brien in AD. 1169, as a new structure on the summit of Cashel. Visitors to the Rock are shown it, and the chapel and cathedral. The chapel is Saxon, and prior to the introduction of the Norman and Gothic styles of architecture to be seen in the Cathedral.

Donald converted the chapel into a chapterhouse on the south side of the choir ; his church must have been of stone, because it needed no great repairs for 250 years, when Archbishop O'Hedian rebuilt those parts which had been injured by age, and modernized the whole, introducing lancet windows and other Gothic ornaments.

## CHAPTER IV.

From TURLOGH DON, DESCENDED From BRIAN BOROIMHE;  
THE COMMON ANCESTOR of the EARLS OF THOMOND;  
THE VISCOUNTS CLARE; THE ENNISTYMON O'BRIENS;  
THE EARLS OF INCHQUIN, MARQUISSES OF THOMOND;  
AND DROMOLAND O'BRIENS.

In the first chapter we passed straight to Murrough O'Brien, The Tanist, and last King of Thomond, who immediately after the death of his brother Conor O'Brien in 1540, was solemnly inaugurated King.

Both were sons of Turlogh Don. Murrough was the head of the O'Briens, in whose time the change of the family from Royal status occurred.

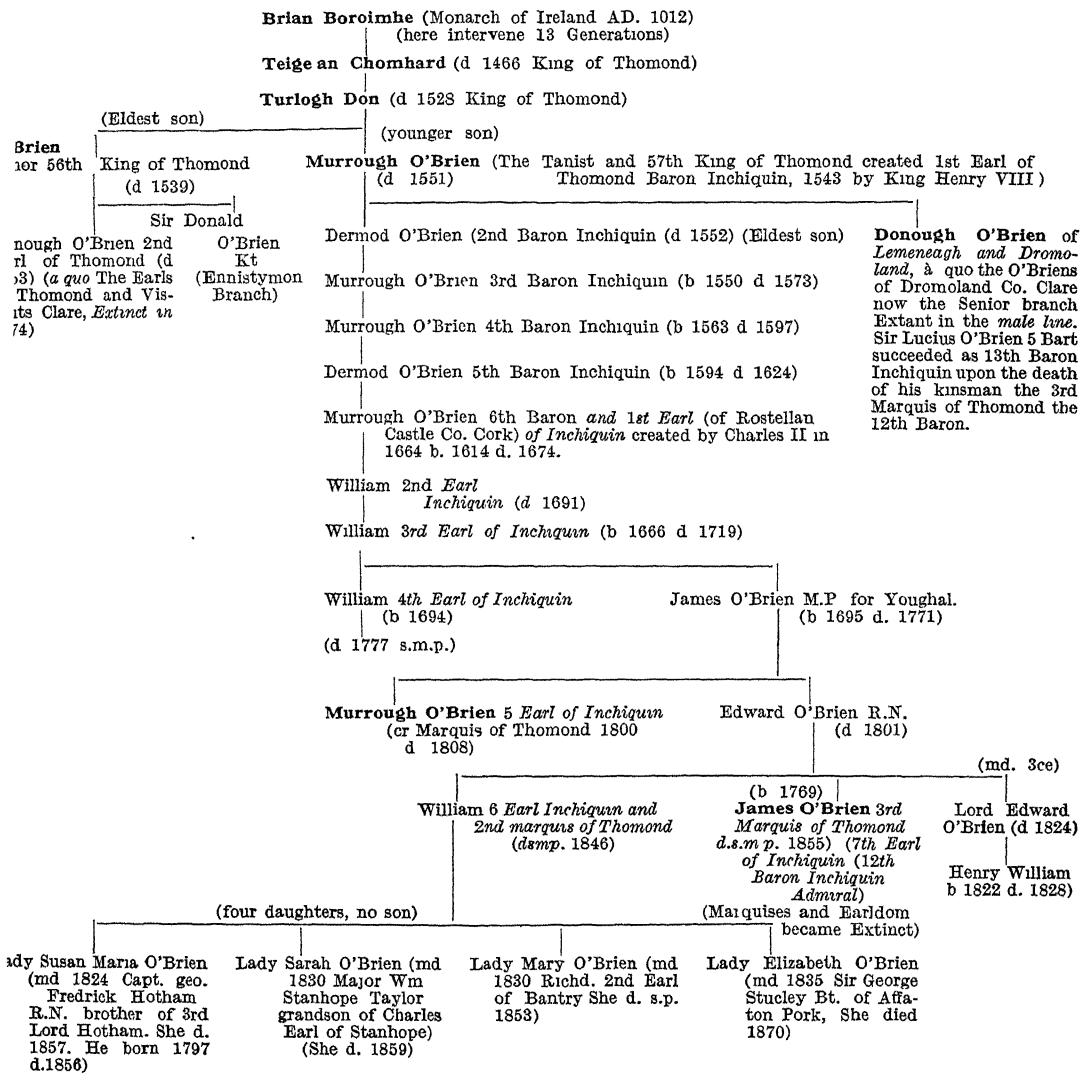
Turlogh Don was 28th in descent from Brian Boromhe, and 55th King of Thomond; succeeding to the throne in AD. 1498. He was the Common ancestor, from whom, in the last four centuries, have descended, the six principle lines of O'Brien.

Turlogh was the eldest son of Teige (Irish for Terence) an Chomard; he married Ragnait, the daughter of John, the son of Sioda, the son of MacCón, the son of Lochin, the son of Connheadha Mac Namara the Chief of that of the family.

The Ancient parchment family pedigree of the O'Briens, which is kept in the family archives and was prepared in AD. 1695, assigns to Turlogh Don two wives.

Joan Fitzmaurice, daughter of Lord Baron Kerry was mother of Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist. Turlogh had four sons. King Conor was the eldest, whose son Donough became 2nd Earl of Thomond and Baron Ibrackan; Donough: Teige, who was killed by a shot on the river Suir by Pierce Butler Earl of Ormonde, after he had spoiled and laid waste the Earl's property with fire and sword. Teige's

## PEDIGREE OF THE EARLS OF INCHICQUIN LATER THE MARQUISES OF THOMOND



body was carried into Thomond and solemnly interred in Ennis Abbey; lastly, Murrough, the Tanist.

Turlogh Don's second son Donough, not to be confused with his nephew, was the tanist before his younger brother Murrough. He stood Tanist to his elder brother Conor who was expectant successor to the Kingdom of Thomond, when Turlogh Don should de-  
cease.

Here is seen the law of tanistry twice in operation in one generation. It made provision for a successor immediately upon the King's death, and preserved continuity of kingship.

Turlogh Don was succeeded by his oldest son Conor in 1528, who died twelve years later in 1540 ; his tanist brother Donough having predeceased him, Murrough, youngest of the surviving brothers took his place. This Murrough came to terms with King Henry VIII ; and was consequently the last tanist of the family. The law of tanistry in Ireland was abolished by law by James 1st. in 1608, and its practice ceased in all septs and lineages thenceforth.

On Conors death his son Donough being a minor could not succeed to the Kingdom, so Murrough his uncle took his place and became King. He is frequently referred to here as, Murrough the Tanist. He was the last of Thomond, and surrendered his kingdom to King Henry VIII in AD. 1543, a year of transcendant importance to the O'Briens for by his act the family relinquished its royal status and henceforth entered the ranks of nobility with titles granted by an English sovereign. A surrender was made by Murrough of his lands, which were immediately regranted to him to be held in future in fee simple.

He went over to Greenwich accompanied by his nephew Donough that year and signed terms of submission which implied the following conditions :-

1. Utterly to forsake and refuse the name of O'Breene, and all claims that he might pretend to by the name ; and to use such name as it should please the King to give unto him.
2. That he, his heirs, and the inhabitants of such lands as the King would be pleased to give him should use the English habit and manner and to their acknowledge the English language ; and in their power bring up their children in the same.
3. He and his heirs to be obedient to the King's laws ; to answer his writs and precepts etc., and to their power, to cause all the

inhabitants under them to do the sem semblable (same), or else bring them to justice.

4. He and his heirs to answer, and go with the Chief Governor, to all hostings and journeys, whereunto they shall be warned and assigned, in such manner and with such company as the marchers of the County of Dublin.
5. Neither he nor his heirs to maintain or to succour any of the King's enemies, rebels or traitors.
6. To hold his lands by a whole Knights fee.

The King as a recompence for this free resignation and voluntary submission (we may question its being free or voluntary) created Murrough Earl of Thomond for life, and Baron Inchiquin to the heirs male of his body by letters patent bearing date at Greenwich 1st July AD. 1543.

And, as was said, for the better support of those honors, he was granted and confirmed to him and his heirs male, all his lands and possessions in Thomond beyond the river Shannon, with all the advowsons and patronages in the said premises, bishoprics excepted, to hold by Knight's Service.

The King, it is said, being sensible of the injustice done to Donough, Murrough's nephew, by his deprivation of the Principality, created him by patent bearing the same date Baron of Ibrackan, to him and his issue male, and Earl of Thomond for life, from the decease of his uncle Murrough.

Here it should be explained that after Murrough's death the Barony of Inchiquin passed to the latter's eldest son, Dermot, and down the fourth line of kinship which became Earls of Inchiquin and Marquises of Thomond, in later generations. Also, that King Edward the VI. withdrew the patent which made Donough, Earl of Thomond for life only, and gave him a patent conferring the same title but secured to the heirs male of his body. This Donough became the second Earl and thence became the progenitor of the Earls of Thomond of which there were eight, the last Earl dying without male issue in AD. 1741.

One of Donough's grandsons was Sir Daniel O'Brien, who was created by Charles II after the Commonwealth Viscount Clare in AD. 1662. Daniel's elder brother, however, became the 4th Earl of Thomond, was Governor of Munster and known as the Great Earl. A fine monument to his memory is in St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick.

The first Earl of Thomond had two sons, Dermot, as mentioned, the elder, and Donough, who was the ancestor of The Dromoland O'Briens, whose descendant Lucius the 5th Baronet successfully pleaded his right to succeed to the Barony of Inchiquin, as 13th Baron in 1861, following the extinction in the male line of Dermot's successors, in the person of James O'Brien, Admiral and 3rd Marquis of Thomond in 1855.

Three hundred years having passed in 1855, since the creation as Baron Inchiquin of Murrough, the tanist, the Common ancestor of the Marquis and his kinsman Lucius, onus fell on the latter to prove before the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords this kinship. Lucius was tenth in descent, and the marquis twelfth in descent from Murrough.

Lucius O'Brien had to prove births, deaths and marriages throughout a period of three hundred years, and in twenty two cases, viz up to and down from the Common ancestor to himself.

The successful issue of the case in the Lords, speaks much for Sir Lucius O'Brien's industry in preparing his case from the innumerable papers and documents at Dromoland Castle in the muniment room ; and for the remarkable care which earlier generations had taken of family papers.

Another remarkable fact in connection with the case, which is perhaps a record in more than one way in the field of genealogy, was that Sir Lucius, who was tenth in succession from the tanist, had succeeded in an unbroken line to the estates through a line of ten eldest sons. He had, of course so succeeded to the Barony of Inchiquin,

This remarkable feature has continued for nearly a further century since the claim ; Sir Lucius' son, grandson and great grandson, the present Lord Inchiquin, have similarly succeeded as eldest sons. This brings the succession through eldest sons, in the Dromoland branch of the family, to thirteen generations, covering almost exactly a period of four hundred years, since the death of The Tanist in AD. 1551.

It is not to be supposed, that The Tanist would have accepted such terms of surrender in AD. 1543 of his royal status as he became compelled to agree to, without duress and his failing of power to resist. The advantage of an English title, however important in England, could hardly be expected to have weighed up the loss of presige and a kingdom, however it had territorially diminished.

It had remained in existence almost from time immemorial, and Murrough was its fifty seventh successive sovereign. Nor should it be forgotten, that his ancestors had retained the Monarchy of Ireland for a hundred and fifty years from the days of Brian Boromhe in AD. 1014. If the O'Briens lost their royal status, their pedigree since the days of the surrender to the English Crown, shows that they have lost nothing of the royal blood that flowed in the veins of their ancestors.

At Dromoland Castle, there is an oil painting of the ceremony which took place at Greenwich on the terrace that overlooked the Thames. Henry VIII is seen with officials in attendance and gentlemen of the Court. Murrough King of Thomond is seen advancing towards him, his crown on a cushion, which he proffers to him. His nephew Donough O'Brien who became second Earl of Thomond on Murrough's death, is in attendance on his uncle a few steps behind him. He and his bearer carry the banner newly granted, blazing the three Lions passant rampant, half argent and half or, distinguishing it from the Royal Arms of England, which has three similar lions, "or" only. This right to use the royal arms so altered, and wear the royal liveries were accorded to the O'Briens then, and even as late as the first Jubilee of Queen Victoria in AD. 1887 and her subsequent Jubilee in 1897 the Lord Inchiquin of the day attended the Ceremonials at Parliament and Buckingham Palace in a large barouche with coachman and servant in royal liveries. Times have changed and these habits are a thing of the past.

There is an ancient Bill in existence, showing that Crimson robes were especially ordered for Murrough O'Brien to wear at the Ceremony at Greenwich.

"Bill for rayment for the Lords of Ireland, of my Lordship  
"of Norfolk's commandment, for them to use at the Ceremony,  
"including Crimson velvet for robes and hood for the great Abreen  
"(O'Brien)."

It is a curious fact that there was such a dearth of money in Ireland at the time, that the lord deputy, St. Ledger, had been obliged to lend to Murrough O'Brien £100, in harp-groats i.e. in pence to pay for his journey to London.

He arrived with his nephew Donough, accompanied by Alic de Burgh, who was at the same time created Earl of Clanricard, in June AD. 1543. The expenses of installation were born by Henry,

who also, for his "better satisfaction," granted him a house and lands in Dublin for "his entertainment during his attendances in Parliament."

A condition imposed upon Murrough at the time, but not included in the signed terms of submission set out above, was that the family was to be brought up at the English Court, and become protestants, they were to speak the English language if he could get them to do so. This came about, young Donough and his son in his turn were so brought up at the English Court, and like few of their contemporaries had learned to speak the language and become acquainted with the manners and customs of the Court. Under such circumstances there was no scope for remaining in their forefathers' religion even had they wished to. The English Court with Henry VIII had become protestant, and part of his plan was to introduce the religious reform in Ireland that had been brought about in England successfully. The suppression and spoliation of the Abbeys and monasteries was part of his programme.

It will have been observed that Murrough's right thereafter of appointing Bishops in his Country was expressly withdrawn from him on the regranting to him of his estates.

From thence, the family of the Earls of Thomond, and the lines of the Tanist's two sons Dermot and Donough from which the Earls of Inchiquin and the Dromoland O'Briens descend became protestant.

The change at that time was entirely a political one, and had no relation to conscience in the participators of the events that were passing at the time.

The third line, the Ennistymon O'Briens, whose ancestor was Donald, the 2nd Earl of Thomond's younger brother, remained Catholic. Donald himself and his relations strongly resented the Tanist's compromise with the Crown of England; and hatred and some fratricidal tendencies developed. It was said, that Donough's untimely death was the result of Donald's conspiracy to take his life, in revenge for advantages obtained by the heads of the family, but which he, as a younger brother, obtained no share in.

For a century there was opposition from O'Brien kinsman who had taken no part in the surrender and had vigorously opposed it. Donald, though next in succession to the kingdom, received nothing by it. Under the law of gavelkind he had obtained his share of the usufruct of the estates. He saw that he was now to lose that,

for the estates were re-granted, with the English law of inheritance imposed on them. Hitherto they were shared out, as to usufruct, the whole was now to belong absolutely to the head of the family with power to alienate by gift or by will without benefit to near relations, unless the head should be disposed to share his advantage.

Nor did any but the heads of the family enjoy the titles conferred by the Crown. The change set up a feud in the family, which only died down after a compromise was reached for the younger members to have a share, as before, in the estates.

Donald's family had refused to share in any of the conditions that had been imposed upon the O'Briens whom it was hoped, by Murrough's influence, would forswear the name of O'Brien, turn protestant, wear the English dress, abandoning the Irish Costume ; nor would they entertain the idea of being educated in the English language, or brought up under English Court influence.

It was not all at once evident to the junior members of the O'Briens, who were perhaps the first to discover the full meaning of the new system of land tenure, that it was the planned policy of the English Government to introduce the new system all over Ireland.

The surrender to the Crown and simultaneous re-grant of Estates, with a full Knights Service attached to it, was surreptitiously introducing the law of inheritance, as practised in England. By pressure upon them, other ancient families, as the O'Neills and the O'Connors were induced to surrender, and in the case of the De Burgs to accept titles of honor. In each case similar surrender and re-grants of Estates took place, until the smaller families followed suit and held their lands in fee simple from the Crown.

It became necessary towards the end of the sixteenth century to hasten the process and make it now compulsory by law. In the 3rd year of the reign of James I. in AD. 1606 a commission of judges was appointed, or sixty three years after the O'Brien Estates had been re-granted to them, to report and advise the King on the subject of tenure of land by gavelkind and tanistry in Ireland. The judgment of the Commission was given by the King's Bench in AD. 1608. It condemned both systems. Previously Irish lands were divided into several territories or countries, and the inhabitants of each Irish country were divided into several septs or lineages, as they were called.

There was a Seigneur or Chief, and a tanist, elected in the Chief's life time, who became his heir apparent. If he died suddenly the

tanist immediately took his place. In each Irish sept or lineage there was also a chief termed the Canfinny (*ceanne fine*), or caput cognationis.

All possessions in these Irish territories, previous to the application of the common law of England, had always gone by tanistry or gavelkind. The Chieftaincy and land which accompanied it, passed whole to the tanist, who always succeeded to his office by election, never by descent. He arranged how the usufruct should be divided among the members of the sept, and on the decease of a younger member of the family, his duty was to re-adjust the apportionments of the usufruct.

All the inferior tenancies were partible between the male members of the family in gavelkind. The Estate which the Chieftains had, or which the inferior tenants held in gavelkind, was not an estate of inheritance, i.e. there was no heir-at-law, as known in English common law. It was a temporary or transitory possession. The son of the chieftain did not necessarily become the successor, but the eldest and most worthy of the sept, as in the case of tanistry, was often selected. He could be removed or expelled for another, who was more active and strong than he.

The lands held in gavelkind were not divided between the nearest heirs male of the one died seized of them, but between all the males of his sept in this manner. Upon the death of the holder of a largish portion of land, all put their possessions in hotch-pot, and a new partition was made of the whole. The tanist, in partitioning, did not assign to the sons of the deceased, the portions which their father held, but he allotted to each of the sept, according to his age, the better or the poorer share.

These portions or shares so allotted were possessed and enjoyed accordingly, until a new partition was made, which, at the discretion or will of the Canfinny, might be done on the death of each inferior tenant.

No legal estate ever vested in the portioners. Their interest was a usufruct of the land only. The Government wanted to put an end to the practice which, due to constant partitions, it was claimed, made possessions uncertain, and militated against civil habitations being erected on the lands. The estates were becoming very reduced, it was said, which ultimately led to the appointment of the Commission to report on the operation of the system to the Government. By the Irish system of gavelkind, both bastards and legitimate children shared equally, women were excluded from dower, and daughters could not inherit, if their fathers died without male issue.

It is interesting to notice that there were four points in which the Irish system of gavelkind differed from the practice in Kent. In that county, firstly, the land was divisible among male heirs, but after partition the co-partners had a certain right of inheritance in their shares. Secondly, bastards were excluded. Thirdly, the wife of a tenant in gavelkind was endowed with half the land. Fourthly, in default of male heirs females inherited. The tenure of land by gavelkind in Wales, which differed little from the system in Ireland, was actually abolished for that Country by Henry VIII in AD. 1543, the same year as the Tanist, Murrough O'Brien, was given a re-grant of his lands by the King, which ended gavelkind for the family, and substituted for it the English law of inheritance.

The judges declared the Irish custom of gavelkind to be void in law ; not only, they said, because it was inconvenient and unreasonable, but because it was a mere personal custom, and could not alter the descent of inheritance. The reasoning is hard to follow but the judges seemed bent on seeing an end to the system. Henceforth, the Irish Counties, and their inhabitants, were to be governed by the rules of English common law of inheritance. The effect of this decision in AD. 1608 was to make lands descend from father to eldest son, and the property in the land actually passed ; its possessor became its owner. He could give it away to anyone outside his family by deed or will, women became endowed, and daughters could inherit, in spite of Irish usage or custom.

It is to be noticed in its application, that the Act of Council decreed, that if an Irishman possessed and enjoyed a portion of land by this custom of gavelkind before the beginning of the reign of King James I, which began in AD. 1603, he would not be disturbed in his possession, but might continue established in it. But that after the beginning of His Majesty's reign, all such lands were to be adjudged to descend to the heirs by common law, and were to be possessed and enjoyed accordingly.

This act in Council changed the whole system of land tenure in Ireland. The law of tanistry and gavelkind tenure of land, has been dealt with at some length here, because this sudden and fundamental change from the ancient law of tanistry to the later system of feudal tenure and English common law struck deep at the heart of the people in Ireland who became obliged against their will to accept a system which they little understood in place of one that had served the country with satisfaction from time immemorable. The

clash of imposing the system upon the Brehon structure of laws struck hard at the roots of Irish polity. The system of tanistry had provided Kings in Ireland without a break in the Country's history since pre-Christian times. In the Counties and territories the same system had operated successfully. Succession to a sovereign by the system, was arranged for in his life-time, there was preserved a continuity of succession, and the choice of a competent heir. Further all members of the family shared in the estates.

The genealogical Chart which was compiled by the author, and has been referred to, showing the twenty three lines of Native Irish Princes, also gives a list of 170 Kings of Ireland, covering two thousand four hundred and fifty years. beginning from B.C. 1284 down to the 12th Century after Christ when Roderick O'Connor last King of his line made submission in AD. 1168 to King Henry II: it illustrates that the system preserved the continuity of succession. As does also the large O'Brien pedigree which shows Murrough the Tanist to have been the fifty seventh King of Thomond. These two examples show that the system had worked well for centuries in Ireland. Certainly it shows how engrained the system must have been in the people.

We may well wonder if the system that worked so well over the centuries in Ireland will ever be re-adapted to such modern conditions as are seen in Europe of today.

The election in the life time of a King of one of the blood to succeed him in the event of his sudden and unexpected death has its advantages in securing continuity of kingly government in a Country. A dangerous period of transition from one sovereign to another can be successfully bridged over by tanistry. If the King's son is a minor at his father's death a tanist elected by members of the Royal family is at hand to take the King's place. An efficient and capable ruler of the blood is ready to take over the rule, perhaps an uncle, preferably the son himself, if of age, and considered competent.

Such elections by the family might be subject to the country's government's approval as a safeguard. This in itself would ensure the family making the most suitable choice, since it would make it with an eye to maintaining its prestige in the country.

Perhaps the application, but with suitable modifications according to circumstances, of the old system of Tanistry would lead in practice to fewer comings and goings of Kings, in these countries where kingships are favoured. We have seen in Europe many such goings,

due either to unpopularity, incompetence, extravagance, or ill health, and the like.

It seems odd, with the example of Irish history before it, that countries must pass at each succession to its throne a period of uncertainty as to how the regime will turn out ; and often to find themselves, because primogeniture is the rule, engaged in unseen disputes with their sovereigns.

Dr. O'Brien's history of Ireland well sums up the law of tanistry in Ireland in these words :

"Amongst the ancient Irish, primogeniture was not the exclusive qualification for kingship, hence we find the Kings of Ireland "appearing in one line or another of descent from Milesius. Tanistry, "abolished in the reign of James I was the law of succession, by virtue "of which the oldest and most experienced of a family was entitled to "succeed to the Sovereignty or lordship immediately after the reigning "prince or lord, in whose life time the Thanist was the Commander "and Chief general of the forces.

"The lordship frequently passed to the brother, preferably to "the son, and on several occasions the lord in possession was excluded "with his sept for that he loved ease and was unable to defend or offend "his neighbours by the sword. Such was the case with the Rois Fain- "cants of France, and other kings of more recent date. "The Custom "of tanistry", continues Dr. O'Brien, was prevalent "in France during "the rule of the first dynasty, or Merovingian Race, and elsewhere."

It became the practice in the days of Tanistry, in some Irish clans of importance to prefix the title "The" before the surname, indicating that the person so styled was accepted as the head of the Clan.

The Chieftain was in those days, and before the system of Tanistry was abolished in AD. 1608, elected by the family. As we have seen, the person elected was not invariably the eldest son of the reigning chief.

Since 'election' disappeared by virtue of act of the Crown, and the heir-at-law was substituted by the common law of England, it has been supposed that the title ceased to have existence or applicability to present conditions. But it appears that the obvious and appropriate successor to the title "The" is the heir-at-law since AD. 1608, and we believe that the families have acted on this assumption. The registering at the Irish Genealogical Office of the names of the present heads of Irish Clans, who claimed the right to bear the title "The" before the surname, and can produce to the office satisfactory evidence of it, is highly to be commended. The application to register in such cases is on an entirely voluntary basis, and we believe that up to now some twelve names of Chieftains have been officially accepted.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE EARLS OF THOMOND

During Conor's lifetime controversy arose between him and his brother, Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist, who by the custom of the law of tanistry was to succeed him. Conor wished to divert the succession to his son Donald, afterwards Sir Donald O'Brien, Conor's son Donough being a minor at his father's death. Murrough, however, usurped the sovereignty of Thomond at his brother's decease, and inaugurated himself King of Thomond, and as transpired was the last of the line to hold regal status.

Murrough's first step on obtaining the Chieftainship was to join Conor O'Neil and Manus O'Donnell in a confederacy against the English Government.

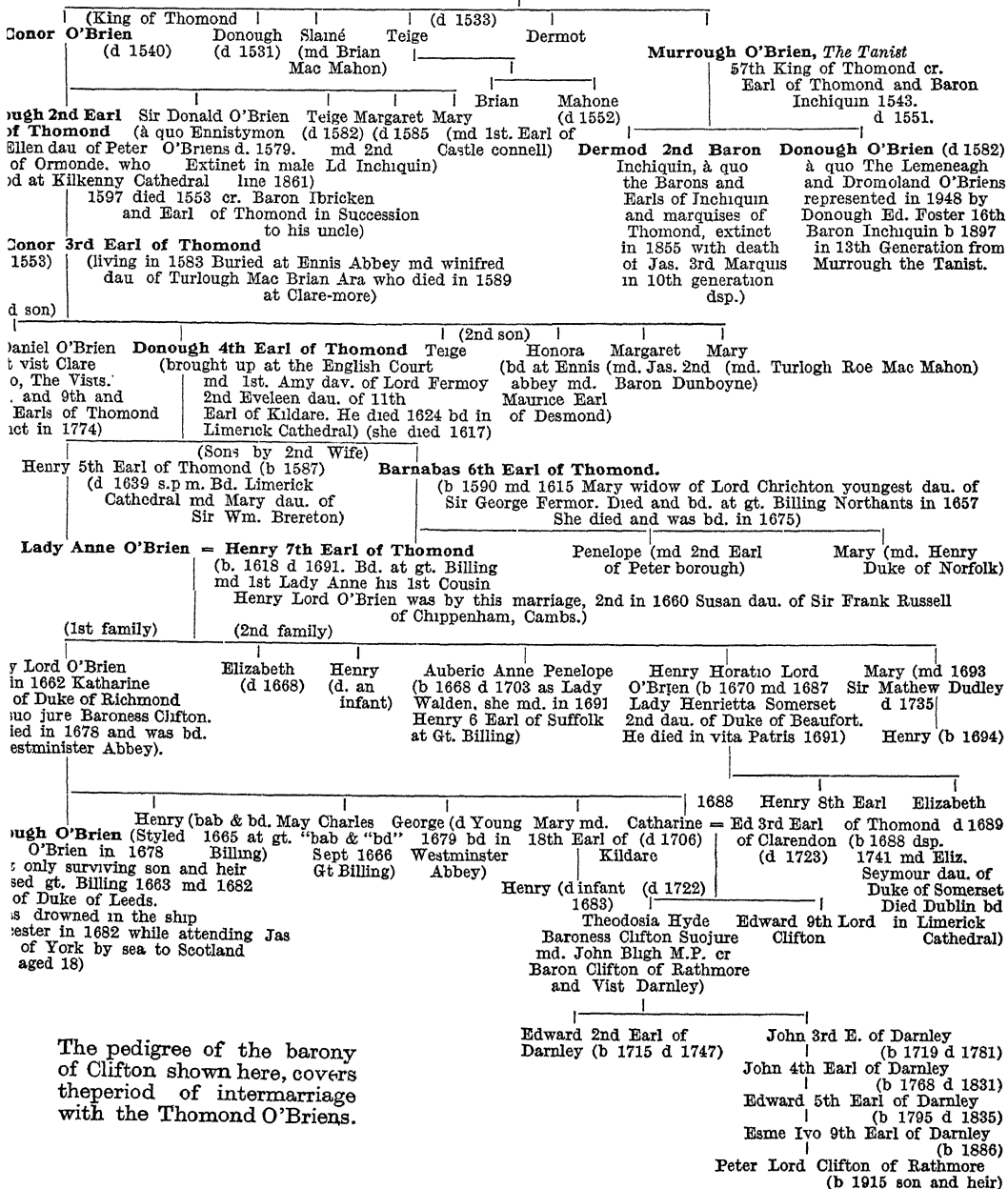
Their scheme, however, was frustrated by Sir William Brereton ; and on the arrival shortly afterwards of Sir Anthony St. Ledger as viceroy a parley took place between them. Conditions of peace and submission were laid before him for consideration, which imposed restitution for him and his family, as well as his authority west of the Shannon.

Under pressure the terms were accepted in AD. 1543. It may be said that Conor O'Neill's submission two years earlier served to weaken Murrough O'Brien's intention to continue resistance against the English crown, for which purpose Neill and O'Donnell and himself had banded together in AD. 1539.

Henry VIII's intention to reconquer Ireland by conciliatory methods became evident, and when O'Brien made his journey with his nephew Donough to the Court of the King at Greenwich in June AD. 1543, he was accompanied by Ulic de Burgh, who had accepted, likewise, terms of submission, and was created Earl of Clanricade at the same time.

Between Brian and Teigé an Chomard are 13 generations in unbroken male descent.

Brian Boroimhe Monarch of Ireland  
(d 1014)  
Teigé an Chomard (d 1464 King of Thomond)  
Turlogh Don (d 1528 King of Thomond)



The pedigree of the barony of Clifton shown here, covers the period of intermarriage with the Thomond O'Briens.

Henry had now secured for his scheme of conquest the heads of the then most influential native Irish houses. An account of O'Brien's journey over to Greenwich and of the events in the year preceding it, records that he left Limerick for Dublin in that year with his nephew "both honestly accompanied and apparelled", to attend the Lord Deputy, where he remained for three or four days.

The King defrayed the expenses of the installation at Greenwich which must have been considerable, as the ceremony of granting the title of Earldom of Thomond and Barony of Inchiquin to him, with reversion to the Earldom for his nephew and creation of the latter to be Baron Ibricken was attended with much pomp.

We have seen that special robes for the "great O'Brien" and his nephew were ordered by the Duke of Norfolk.

After a short stay in London O'Brien returned to Ireland where the course he had adopted met with considerable opposition especially by his other nephew, younger son of Conor, Donald O'Brien, to whom we have referred.

Murrough died eight years later, in AD. 1551, and was succeeded by his nephew who had accompanied him to Greenwich. On the 7th. November AD. 1552 this Donough surrendered his patent of nobility to King Edward VI, who granted to him in its stead the title of Earl of Thomond, to himself and his heirs male of his body. His Barony of Ibricken was confirmed to him. He was now the second Earl. He did not long enjoy the honor, being killed in April 1553 as was supposed by his brother Donald, who married his first cousin, a daughter of Murrough the Tanist. The murder resulted from the indignation felt by Donald and others of the O'Briens, who were nearly related at the new system of grafting primogeniture upon the old system of Tanistry, by which they had shared in the usufruct of the lands.

By the surrender they considered their prestige had gone, and in its place saw nothing to compensate them for this act of betrayal. The ownership of the estates was, henceforth, to belong exclusively to the holder of the title, who would always be the eldest son in succession.

In later times Donald overcame his earlier opposition, and accepted a knighthood at the hands of Queen Elizabeth, and was ap-

pointed by her the first sheriff of the County of Clare, in 1575, which had been newly constituted.

With the death of Donough in AD. 1553, the title of Earl of Thomond and Baron Ibricken passed to his eldest son Conor by Helen Butler, youngest daughter of Piers, 8th. Earl of Ormonde. There is a fine monument to her memory at St. Canice's Cathedral at Kilkenny, with the following inscription : "Hic jacet Da Ellana Butler, dau. of the Earl of Ormond and wife of Donald O'Brien Earl of Thomond, who died 2 July 1553". "Donald is a mistake for Donough"

Conor 3rd. Earl of Thomond was called, Groibleach, or "the long nailed". Almost immediately on his accession, his right was challenged by his uncle Donald O'Brien, who got himself formally inaugurated O'Brien and chief of the Dalcais. He was obliged to surrender Clonroad Castle, the then usual residence of the O'Briens, and retired to a castle on the borders of Galway called, Doonmulvihill, where he was besieged by Donald. The struggle between the two lasted several years, and Donald was joined by Teige and Donough, his first cousins, the sons of Murrough, 1st. Earl of Thomond. Attempts were made by the English authorities in Dublin to settle the dispute, when in AD. 1588 the Earl of Sussex marched an army to Limerick, and caused Donald, Teige and Donough to be proclaimed traitors, and Conor was re-instated in his possessions. After sundry imprisonments the three were released, or escaped from prison, and the old dispute was again raised.

Eventually, in AD. 1586 Donald consented to surrender his claim to the Lordship of Thomond on condition of receiving Corcomroe in the northern part of Clare. As the result of disputes the territory of Thomond was neglected, and Limerick in particular was reported in April 1567 by Sir Henry Sidney as utterly impoverished owing to the Earl of Thomond's "insufficiency to govern". The Earl becoming discontented at these criticisms and the suspicions that were cast upon him, entered into a league in 1569 with the arch rebel James Fitzmaurice Fitzgerald. In AD. 1570 he attacked the President of Connaught, Sir Edward Fitton at Ennis and compelled him to seek refuge in Galway. A strong force under the Earl of Ormonde was at once despatched against him, and a few weeks later he surrendered unconditionally. He went to France and saw the English Ambassador, Sir Henry Norris, begging him to intercede with the Queen for his pardon.

In December of that year he returned to Ireland, having received certain assurances that his case would be considered, and that his assurances to the Queen of his regret and loyalty to her, would be heard. Subsequently, in April AD. 1571, he made surrender of all his lands to the Queen, and obtained permission to go to England to solicit their restoration. His visit was cancelled, but through the good offices of the Lord Deputy, who prevailed on the Council to agree, a warrant was issued in 1573 for the restoration of his lands. Two years later Donald was knighted by the Queen, and became first Sheriff of the County of Clare. In October 1577 the Earl of Thomond went to England, when a warrant was issued for new patent containing the full effect of his former patent, with remainder to his son, Donough, Baron Ibricken. On returning to Ireland he found, according to the "Four Masters", that Thomond had become tributary to the sovereign, and every barony had to pay a sum of ten pounds. This was the first tribute that had ever been paid by the Dalcais. In spite of this it appears that the Earl lived on good terms with the new President of Connaught, Sir Nicholas Malty.

Conor 3rd. Earl died in January 1581, and was succeeded by his eldest son Donough, who later became President of Munster, and was known as the "Great Earl". Conor had married Ellen or Eveleen, daughter of Donald MacCormac MacCarthy Mor, and widow of James Fitzjohn Fitzgerald, 14th. Earl of Desmond. She died in 1560, and was buried at Mucross Abbey. He married secondly Una, daughter of Turlogh Mac-i-Brien-Ara, by whom he had issue three sons, Donough his heir, Teige, and Daniel who was knighted and in AD. 1662 created Viscount Clare by Charles II some years after the Restoration ; he also, had three daughters, Honora first wife of Thomas Fitzmaurice, 18th, Lord Kerry ; Margaret, second wife of James Butler, second Lord Dunboyne ; and Mary, wife of Turlogh Roe MacMahon of Corcobaskin.

Teige was long imprisoned in Limerick on account of his rebellion against the English, but was released on protesting his loyalty.

He was imprisoned again, but succeeded in escaping, and joined in O'Donnell's second invasion of Clare in 1599. He was killed during his brother Thomond's pursuit of the rebels.

Donough 4th. Earl of Thomond had been brought up at the Court of Queen Elizabeth in accordance with the Crown's planned

policy of anglicizing the Irish, and educating the heads of the important families, to appreciate the English system of Government, and to acquire a thorough knowledge of the English language and customs. Murrough O'Brien, 1st. Earl, his great uncle had by his terms of surrender eighty years before, consented to the plan, by which the O'Briens were to be educated in England, or at least to be instructed in the English ways.

Donough was residing at the Court in 1577, as appears when he was mentioned, as Baron of Ibricken in the new patent granted on the 7th October that year to his father Conor, 3rd. Earl.

When Conor died in AD. 1581 he succeeded him, but returned to Ireland the following year where he was assiduous in his attendances upon the Lord Deputy in 1583 and 1584.

Though his possessions were in County Clare, he had been placed under the jurisdiction of the Government of Connaught, previous to his father's death, and he was now anxious to free them from Connaught control. He persevered in this purpose, which took some years to accomplish.

In 1584 he was one of the Commissioners who established the agreement that tanistry and the law of partible succession should be abolished in Connaught and a tax of 10s. 0d. a quarter to be paid on land. He sided strongly with the government in suppressing rebellions against its authority penetrating into O'Donnell's country to repress the "refractory Irishry" who continued as always, to resist its authority, and to throw off the yoke.

Tyrone's victory at the Yellow Ford encouraged disaffection to spread to Thomond's country ; at this point Thomond's brother Teige joined him, and O'Donnell in 1599. They invaded Clare, capturing most of the castles, and making a prisoner of Thomond's younger brother, Daniel O'Brien (later 1st. Viscount Clare), who had been left to defend it. The Earl returned from London, joined forces with the Earl of Ormonde, and marched into Clare to revenge his brother's imprisonment, and to recover his possessions. He besieged such of the castles as resisted his progress, Dornby Castle surrendered, where he hanged the garrison on trees. The invaders were completely driven out of the County of Clare, and the Castles of loyalists were restored to them.

As a reward for his services, he was made Governor of Clare on 15 August that year, and in September was made a member of the Privy Council. Thomond continued to side with and to assist Or-

monde in his task of restoring order. In AD. 1600 both, when in company of Sir George Carew, narrowly escaped capture. Thomond himself was wounded. Bunratty was the stronghold of the O'Briens, Earls of Thomond and Thomond was in occupation ; he entertained the Lord Deputy there about this time. He soon visited England again, and returned with re-inforcements, via Bristol, landing at Castlehaven in November 1601, and proceeded to Kinsale to assist the besiegers, who badly needed succour.

After the fall of the town, Thomond went through Munster, took up position in Bere Island, and took command at the siege of Dunboy, hanging no less than sixty of its survivors.

He again visited England, where he was well received for his services on these many occasions to the Crown ; and as a reward Queen Elizabeth directed his name to rank in Ireland next to those of the Lord Deputy, and the Chief Justice in the Judicial Commissions for trials of criminals and imprisoned persons.

His highest appointment came on 6th May 1605, when James I made him President of Munster. In 1619 he was re-appointed Governor of Clare.

Florence MacCarthy Reagh, who had been in prison since his surrender to the loyalists in AD 1600, was released on Thomond giving his surety of his good behaviour. MacCarthy Reagh dedicated to him his work, on the Antiquity and History of Ireland. Donough 4th. Earl died on 5th September 1624, and was buried in St. Mary's Cathedral at Limerick, where may be seen a large and magnificent tomb erected to his memory and that of his second wife, Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald, daughter of the 11th. Earl of Kildare. She died in AD. 1617, seven years before her husband. The tomb is surmounted by two recumbent stone carved figures of Donough and his wife. The stone is finely carved, and high above the whole hangs a golden crown. The figures were roughly treated in the time of the Commonwealth, and considerable damage was done, but the tomb was largely restored by his grandson Henry 7th. Earl of Thomond about thirty years later. This act is recorded upon the monument of the 7th. Earl, which was erected to him in the Cathedral on his death in 1691, by his wife, Sarah 3rd. daughter of Sir Francis Russell of Chippenham in Cambridgeshire. The fourth Earl directed by his will of the 16th November 1617, that the monument to be erected to him should be a copy of that erected to Sir Thomas Vere in Westminster Abbey. He was buried in the Cathedral under the monu-

ment. Two windows on the north side of the chancel were blocked up to accommodate it, thus making the chancel dark and gloomy, and remains of several of the Bishops of Limerick, who had been interred on that side, were transferred to the south of it. On the slab at the back of the monument is the following inscription :- "This monument being defaced in ye time of ye late rebellion of Ireland was by Henry ye second Earle of Thomond of ye name re-edified in AD. 1678 in memory of his most noble grandfather Donough O'Brien Earle of Thomond, Baron of Ibreacan President of Mynster, one of His Majesties Privy Coynceill, who having derived his title from an ancient and honourable family, sometime ye founder of this Church left them to posterity more ennobled by his own vertye for giving equal proofes both for coyrag and conduct of his loyalty and worth, he was rewarded by ye High and Mighty Monarch Queen Elizabeth and King James with honours above ye nobility of his time".

The above wording is somewhat misleading to the casual reader. "Henry ye second Earle of Thomond" meaning, in regal style, the second of the name Henry, but in reality he was seventh Earl.

The seventh Earl's grandson, Henry 8th. Earl, who died in Dublin on 20th April 1741 was buried in the Cathedral. The register reads that he died as stated, and was buried in the cathedral on 1st November the same year, apparently six months later. This has not been explained.

It is believed that Donald Mor O'Brien, who founded the Cathedral of St. Mary, and died in AD. 1194 was buried there, where is seen in the chancel at the present day a stone slab which in all probability marked the place of interment. It is immediately inside the west doorway, under the tower.

Donough the 4th Earl, who lived at Bunratty Castle eight miles from Limerick, by his will bequeathed : "All my glasse and leade in my house at Bunratty, being not set up in the wyndowes there, towards the glazing of the Cathedral Church of Limerick only ,as much glass as will glaze the wyndowes of the Church of Bunratty newly edified by me....."

At Dromoland Castle, County Clare, the seat of Lord Inchiquin is a fine oval portrait of the 4th. Earl in armour, painted on canvas. He is wearing a pointed beard. Sir George Carew said of him, that his motives were never quite free of suspicion, but the services he rendered to the crown in suppressing rebellion, and keeping order, "proceeded out of a true nobleness of mind, and from no great en-

couragement received from the Court". Donough married twice. His first wife was Ellen daughter of Maurice Roche, Viscount Fermoy, who died in 1597, by her he had one daughter married to Cormac, son and heir of Lord Muskerry. His second wife, who died on 12 January 1617, was Elizabeth, fourth daughter of Gerald, 11th. Earl of Kildare ; by her he had Henry, fifth Earl, and Barnabas the 6th. Earl of Thomond. Amongst the 4th. Earl's estate in County Clare were certain islands in Abbey lands, of which appear particulars in a rental of the Crown Estate of 1577. Queen Elizabeth was the owner of the Abbey on Canon Island, and of these other islands, viz. Inishoul, Inishcarker, and Inish Tubrid ; also of two thirds of the tithe of Killadysert, and of Kilcreist.

In June 1605 a grant was made to him of those tithes of the Abbey lands ; and a moiety of the Abbey of Clare, near Ennis ; and also of the Churches of Kilcreist, Kilmilhill, and Kilmaeduan together with other Church lands and titles in Clonderalaw and islands. The grant was confirmed in 1609, and again in 1661. There is nothing now remaining in the Abbey on the island of Canon of antiquarian interest, except an inscription which cannot be deciphered.

On Coney island in this parish there was once a castle that belonged to Teige MacConor O'Brien, who was ancestor of the Ballycorrick O'Briens. The descendants of the Earl's youngest brother Sir Daniel O'Brien, were destined to succeed to the Earldom in 1741, a hundred and twenty years later, upon the death of the Earl's descendant, the 8th. Earl, last of his line.

They had been Viscounts Clare since AD. 1662, when this Daniel was created by Charles II Viscount of that name, and by then in 1741 were represented by the 6th. Viscount, who was Marshal of France.

Daniel's eldest brother, Teige, married Slainy, daughter of Teige O'Brien of Smithstown, and had Turlogh, Murrough and Dermot. Turrough was of Ballyslattery, and had Conor, who died without issue.

Henry, fifth Earl of Thomond was 37 years of age at his father's death in 1624. He had been admitted, commensal at the second table, at Brasenose College Oxford on 17 November 1604. He was a student at Trinity College, Dublin, being registered in the Books of the College as S.P. in 1613. His kinsman Sir Donough MacConor O'Brien, Kt. of Lemeneagh, County Clare, was also a student at the college, which he entered as a ward on 1 December AD. 1614. Trinity College was founded by Queen Elizabeth only thirty one years

previously in 1582. He was summoned to Parliament by the title of Lord Ibricken, and on 20 May 1615 was appointed of the Counsel to the President of Munster. On the 10th of September AD. 1633 he became a member of the Privy Council to King Charles I. He married Mary, daughter of Sir William Brereton who was created on 11 May 1624, Baron Brereton, Baron of Leighlin, and died in 1639, and was buried in Limerick Cathedral without male issue.

He had five daughters :- Mary, first married to Charles Cockaine, the 1st. Viscount Cullen ; and secondly to George Blunt, Esq., 2nd son of Sir George Blunt of Sodington in Worcestershire, Bart. by whom he had a son ; Margaret, who was the second wife of Ernest Somerset, Marquess of Worcester, by whom she had an only daughter Mary, who died young. She died in 1681. Elizabeth, the second wife of Dutton Lord Gerard of Bromley by whom she had one daughter, Elizabeth. Anne, married to Henry, 7th. Earl of Thomond, her first cousin in 1641. She died and was buried in the church at Great Billing in Northamptonshire, on the 16th. September 1644, 'as Lady Ann O'Brien.

Honora, first married to Sir Francis Inglefield of Wotton-Basset in Wiltshire, by whom he had no issue, secondly to Sir Robert Howard, sixth son of Thomas, the first Earl of Berkshire, a poet, and auditor of the Exchequer.

Henry, 5th. Earl was succeeded by his brother, Barnabas, 6th. Earl of Thomond, who matriculated from Exeter College, Oxford on the 19th August 1636 aged 15 years, and was a captain in the army of James, and Charles I. He took his seat in the House of Peers in 1639, and was made lord-lieutenant of the County of Clare 1640/41. In this year the rebellion broke out in Ireland. He repaired to King Charles I in Oxford that year, having been driven from his residence, Bunratty Castle. He was rewarded for his services to the King's cause by grant of a patent, under the Privy Seal, dated 3 May 1645, creating him Marquess of Billing in the County of Northampton. There was the castle, which he acquired, and the Earls lived in for just a hundred years in England till 1741.

But the troubles of the time prevented the passage of the patent under the great seal, so the title was never enjoyed by his posterity. His property in County Clare suffered severely from the disturbances of the Revolution, and he claimed that he had spent £ 16,000 on the Parliamentary cause. He petitioned Parliament for the recovery of £ 2,000, pleading that his real estate was in the hands of the Irish

rebels. His petition was granted, and he apparently gave no cause for suspicion to the Commonwealth and protectorate, for his son's request for the governorship of Thomond was favorably received by Henry Cromwell. Barnabas married Mary, youngest daughter of Sir George Fermor, ancestor of the Earl of Pomfret, by whom he had Henry his successor, 7th. Earl of Thomond; Penelope, who married the second Earl of Peterborough; and Mary, who married Henry, Duke of Norfolk.

Henry was born about 1618, and died in 1691. He was buried at the church of Great Billing, on the 9th May of that year. He sold the reversion of Dromoland, County Clare to Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st. Bart of Lemeneagh, in 1684. Sir Donough O'Brien, was created a Baronet two years later, and about this time left Lemeneagh Castle to live at Dromoland.

On the red brick wall at the lower garden entrance gate, by the farm, may be seen the ancient coat of arms and supporters of the Earls of Thomond. These must have remained set in the wall for nearly two hundred and fifty years, having been erected there when the Earls of Thomond were owners.

It is not impossible that they were erected by Murrough the 1st. Earl, about AD. 1551. He died that year. His arms and title had by then been presented to him by King Henry VIII in 1543 and would be identical to those of 7th. Earl of Thomond. In that case they have remained there for about four hundred years.

The 7th. Earl's father Barnabas of Bunratty Castle, and of Gt. Billing Castle, was born in AD. 1590. He married on 17 July 1615, Mary widow of Lord Chrichton, youngest daughter of Sir George Fermor as we saw. He died on 15 November 1657, and was buried in the church at Great Billing. She died, and was also buried there on 15 April 1675. Henry, 7th. Earl by his first marriage to Lady Ann O'Brien had a son, known as Henry Lord O'Brien, who also had a son, Donough O'Brien, but neither lived to have male heirs, so the Earldom passed to his grandson by his second marriage, being the son of Henry Horatio, Lord O'Brien.

It is convenient to follow the descent after mentioning again Lady Ann O'Brien. Her son, Henry Lord O'Brien became a Privy Councillor, he married in 1662 Katharine, <sup>Richard</sup> ~~daughter~~ of the Duke of Buccleuch, who was Baroness Clifton 'suo jure'. He died in Flanders from what is described as distemper, in his father's lifetime, and

was buried in Westminster Abbey on 9th. September 1678. She was buried there on 11th. November 1702.

Their son Donough, styled Lord O'Brien in 1678, was the first and only surviving son of his father, and was baptised at Great Billing on 16 September 1663. He married in 1682 the daughter of the Duke of Leeds. He was drowned at sea in the ship Gloucester in 1682, while attending James Duke of York by sea to Scotland. He left no issue.

He had three younger brothers, all of whom died very young, and two sisters, Mary, who was born in 1662, and died in 1683, and was buried at Westminster Abbey. She married John 18th. Earl of Kildare, who died in 1707, and had an infant Henry, who died in 1682 ; and Catharine born in 1673, and died in 1706. She married in 1688 Edward 3rd. Earl of Clarendon, who died in 1723, She was Baroness Clifton 'suo jure' upon her mother's death.

Their children were Lady Theodosia Hyde, born in 1693, Baroness Clifton 'suo jure' on her mother's death in 1706, Catharine, and Edward born in 1690, who became 9th. Lord Clifton, but died in the lifetime of his father in 1712 unmarried.

Lady Theodosia Hyde married on 24 August 1713, John Blyh M.P. (created on 14 September 1721 Baron Clifton of Rathmore in Ireland, and Viscount Darnley on 17 March 1722). He became Earl of Darnley on 29 June 1725 and died on 12 September 1728. Lady Theodosia died on 30th July 1722.

From this union are descended the Earls of Darnley and the Barony of Clifton, the latter having passed through the female line for several generations at this point.

Their two sons were in succession, Edward 2nd. Earl of Darnley born in 1715, d.s.p. 1747, and John 3rd. Earl, born 1719, died 1781, and so on till in the present generation Esme Ivo 9th Earl of Darnley, born in 1886 is alive with a son and heir, born in 1915, named Peter Lord Clifton of Rathmore.

This O'Brien-Clifton-Darnley connection is of some genealogical interest, and shows the female line of Clifton marrying into the Thomond-O'Brien line. It has been mentioned that Donough O'Brien, who married the daughter of the Duke of Leeds, had had three brothers, who died young ; and here is a family tragedy.

Henry was baptised at Gt. Billing on 5 May and buried on the 9th May 1665 ; Charles was baptised on 8 September 1666, and was



*Donough O'Brien, 4th Earl of Thomond, Lord President of Munster, known as the "Great Earl". He died in 1624 and was buried in St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick, where is a striking monument to his name.*



*Henry 7th Earl of Thomond, nephew of Henry 5th Earl of Thomond. Born in 1613 died in 1691. He was buried in St. Andrews Church at Great Billing near Northampton.*



*Henry 8th Earl of Thomond, grandson of the 7th Earl of Thomond. Born in 1688, and died in Dublin in 1741. He was buried in St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick. He married Lady Elizabeth Seymour daughter of the Duke of Somerset.*



*Lady St. Ledger wife of Sir W. St. Ledger whose daughter Elizabeth was the wife of the 1st. Earl of Inchiquin.*

buried the same month of the following year in 1667 ; George died young, and was buried in 1679 at Westminster Abbey.

To revert now to Henry 7th. Earl of Thomond, and give an account of his second family by his second wife, after mentioning the misfortunes that fell to the members of the first family by Lady Anne O'Brien his first cousin, daughter of the 5th. Earl.

His second wife was Sarah 3rd. daughter of Sir Francis Russell of Chippenham, County Cambridgeshire. The marriage took place in 1660, and there were two sons and three daughters of the marriage. Elizabeth, who died on 3 June 1668 ; Henry who died an infant ; Auberie Ann Penelope, born 1668, and died 1703, aged 35, as Lady Walden, and was buried at Walden, she married 2ndly, in 1691, at Gt. Billing, Henry 6th. Earl of Suffolk, who died in 1718. She had Charles 7th. Earl of Suffolk who was born 1693, and died 1721 ; Mary, who married in 1693 Sir Mathew Dudley, Bart, son of Sir William Dudley. She died on 7 November 1735, and had a son, Henry Dudley born in 1694 ; Henry Horatio Lord O'Brien, who was born in 1670, married in 1687 at the age of 17 years, Lady Henrietta Somerset, second daughter of the Duke of Beaufort. She married secondly in 1705 the 6th. Earl of Suffolk, as his second wife, and died on 12 August 1715. Her first husband Henry Horatio Lord O'Brien had died in his father's lifetime at the age of only 21 years in 1691, and was buried at Gt. Billing. He had a son who became the 8th Earl of Thomond who in turn was succeeded by his kinsman in France the 6th Viscount Clare who styled himself the 9th Earl in spite of the fact that this kinsman's branch of the O'Briens had been outlawed in 1691. Henry Horatio O'Brien also had three daughters: Mary who died 30 August 1716 ; Margaret, who died unmarried ; and Elizabeth, who was born in 1689, but died very young the same year.

On the death in 1691 of the 7th. Earl who was buried at Gt. Billing church, his grandson Henry succeeded as the Eighth Earl of Thomond.

There is a fine white marble monument raised to his memory in the church in 1694, by his widow Sarah, who died in 1718. It is in a good state of preservation after these two hundred and fifty years. It is, also, raised to the memory of some of the young members of the family, who it is seen died very young. The Earldom which expired in 1741 with the death of the 8th. Earl, had lasted two hundred years, the last hundred of which had been lived at Great Billing by

the family from the day Barnabas 6th. Earl had been turned out of Bunratty, and gone to Oxford to join the forces of Charles I.

The following is the inscription on the tomb in the church at Gt. Billing in Northamptonshire :-

"This monument was erected by ye right Honourable Sarah  
"Countess Dowager of Thomond".

"In memory of her Lord Henry Earle and Governor of Thomond in ye Kingdom of Ireland, and one of ye Lords of ye most Honourable Privy Council there in the raignes of ye two Royal Monarches King Charles and James ye second, who being descended by most ancient Royal Ancestors in that kingdom where has been time out of mind erected by them and since re-edified by him in ye Cathedral Church of St. Mary in Limerick a stately monument and vault for their interment changed his mortal for an immortal life at his seat at Bi'lling in Northamptonshire ye 2nd. of ye ides of May anno Domini 1691, in the 73rd. year of his age, after having given many singular proofes of his loyalty and affection to his king and country. He married ye said Countess in ye year of our Lord 1660, she being a daughter of Sir Francis Russell of Chipnham in Cambridgeshire, by whome he had 2 sons and 3 daughters viz. Henry Horatio Lord O'Brien ye Lady Elizabeth the Lady Penelope, and the Lady Mary the two last surviving. The said Henry Horatio Lord O'Brien and Barron of Ibrickan was by special Providence and ye great prudence and foresight of ye said Earle and Countess's in ye 17 yeare of his age most happily married to ye Right Honourable ye Lady Henrietta Somerset second daughter to ye noble Lord Henry Duke of Beaufort, he died at Chelsea in ye County of Middsx of ye smallpox in ye 21 years of his age, and lies underneath interred having left ye said Lady Henrietta a sorrowful widow, by whome he had one son and two daughters viz. Henry ye now Earle of Thomond an infant, ye Lady Mary, and ye Lady Elizabeth O'Brien ye latter died very young."

There are some fine pieces of silver plate, which may be seen at the church on enquiring of the custodian, presented for service there, in 1698 by the Lady Henrietta O'Brien, mentioned in the text above. The church is dedicated to St. Andrew and is inside the extensive park of Billing.

The present house was built on to the old foundations of the castle, and the great thickness of the old castle wall remaining, may be noticed on a visit to the more modern mansion.

The 8th. Earl of Thomond was born on 14 August 1688. He married on 4 June 1707 Lady Elizabeth Seymour, eldest daughter of the Duke of Somerset. She died on 2 April 1734. He died in Dublin on 20 April 1741, and was buried as we have seen in the Cathedral

of St. Mary on 1st November of the same year. He was created Viscount Tadcaster, which title became extinct at his death. His will was dated 1st October 1738 and was exceedingly important, as will be seen, for except for a cash gift of £ 12,000 to his kinsman 6th. Viscount Clare, he left his large estates to Murrough Lord O'Brien, only surviving son of William 4th. Earl of Inchiquin, his kinsman, but in remainder to Percy Wyndham second son of Sir William Wyndham Bart, who had married his wife's sister Lady Catharine Seymour. Lord O'Brien died the same year as the Earl, and Percy Wyndham succeeded to these large estates in Ireland, which then passed out of the family. Percy Wyndham's successors are the Barons Leconfield. The limitation of the estates was conditional on his taking the name O'Brien and the Wyndhams were called, "O'Brien-Wyndham" till recent times ; since the lands have been sold under the land acts in Ireland, the name Wyndham alone is now used, there being no longer any moral obligation to continue combining "O'Brien" with the family name. With a view to setting aside the remainder to Percy Wyndham proceedings were taken in Court, alleging that there was no consideration for the bequest in remainder. An amusing remark is attributed to counsel defending the case. He pleaded that it was enough consideration to justify it, that his client had to lay aside his noble name, and to have to assume the barbarous appellation of "O'Brien". Their lordships were satisfied, and held for the validity of the will.

These estates remained, until sold some twenty years ago under the Irish Land Acts, with the Wyndham family, who are now represented by Lord Leconfield. Head rents are still being collected from the estates by the family's solicitor in Dublin.

Some idea of the extent of these Irish Estates, which marched with the Clare property of Lord Inchiquin may be got from the return of owners of land in Ireland, made by the Irish Government in 1876, which shows them to have been at that time 37,000 acres, and in the County of Limerick 6,000 acres. Lord Inchiquin's estate in County Clare is returned at that time as 20 000 acres.

It is not easy to determine why the 8th. Earl of Thomond left his estates away from his family, when there were so many of his kinsmen alive at the time he made his will. Perhaps his relations with them were strained. There was Murrough Lord O'Brien's father William 4th. Earl of Inchiquin, who only died in 1777 (36 years after the testator). Other suitable heirs were the Honourable

James O'Brien the younger brother of this Earl of Inchiquin, who, with his three sons (the eldest Murrough O'Brien, who became 5th. Earl of Inchiquin, and was in 1800 created 1st. Marquis of Thomond) survived until 1777, 1808, 1788 and 1801 respectively.

These were all ignored by the will, as was Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd. Bart. of Dromoland, County Clare, whose extensive estates marched alongside. Sir Edward died in 1765, and would have enjoyed them for 24 years of his life, the present Lord Inchiquin is his descendant. The early laws of gavelkind, when there was no legal ownership in Ireland of family estates, and alienation by gift or will was impossible, had ended when all next of kin had the right of usufruct ; Sir Donald O'Brien and his kinsman, we noticed, had bitterly resented at the time, two centuries earlier, the arrangement his brother Donough, the 2nd. Earl of Thomond had made with Henry VIII, whereby he and his uncle Murrough accepted titles from the King, surrendered their lands to him, and took a regrant with a whole knights service, to the exclusion of kinsmen's rights over them.

The common law of inheritance, with its legal estate, admitting of alienation by grant or by will had been let in at the door, while gavelkind went out by the window.

The Earl of Thomond approached his catholic kinsman, Charles 6th. Viscount Clare with a view to his changing his religion and returning to Ireland to become his heir. George I was willing that this should take place, and promised, if he would accede to the request, to cancel the attainder of his ancestor Daniel 3rd. Viscount, which took place in AD. 1691, whereby the Viscountcy which he bore, and had been granted in 1662 to Sir Daniel O'Brien by Charles II would be recognised at law, and his estates which had been confiscated would be restored to him. But Clare refused to conform and forsake his faith.

In recognition of this adherence to his family's religion, Lord Thomond left him £ 12,000 in cash by his will. What influences were at work to keep the O'Briens otherwise from their rightful inheritance is not known. Lady Thomond, who was Lady Elizabeth Seymour had died in 1713, and her sister Lady Catharine Seymour (Sir William Wyndham's wife), and mother of the remainder man, had predeceased her husband's will of 1738, four years.

They could hardly have influenced him so far ahead. Perhaps Percy Wyndham's father Sir William, who survived the Earl five years,

played a part, or the 6th. Duke of Somerset, father of the Ladies Seymour, and who survived the Earl seven years, had exercised his influence in his favour.

Fifteen years later, in 1756, Percy Wyndham was created Earl of Thomond, which was a second creation ; and strange as it may seem, was running parallel with the old Earldom, now being borne by Viscount Clare in France. Actually, both Earldoms expired in the same year, AD. 1774 ; when the 7th. and last Viscount Clare who had called himself 10th. Earl of the old creation died, and when Percy Wyndham, likewise, died in London without heirs.

The author was recently informed, that the following entry relating to the death of and the creation of Percy Wyndham to Earldom of Thomond, appears in an old Limerick paper, dated 1st. August 1774 :-

“The Right Honorable Percy Wyndham O’Brien, Earl of Thomond, who died in London the 21st of July, was second son of Sir William Wyndham, (Secretary of War, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and a Privy Councillor to Queen Anne) by lady Catharine Seymour, second daughter to Charles, Duke of Somerset, and was uncle to the present Earl of Egremont. On November 29, 1756, his Lordship was created Baron of Ibricken, and Earl of Thomond in Ireland, and took on himself the name and arms of O’Brien, pursuant to the will of his uncle, the late Earl of Thomond. His Lordship was of his Majesty’s Privy Council, and member of parliament for Winchelsea in Sussex.”

These Earldoms of Thomond, have no relation, whatsoever with the Marquisate of that name, which was a step in the peerage given to the junior kinsman’s line of Earls of Inchiquin. The marquisate was granted to Murrough, the fifth Earl of Inchiquin, in AD. 1800, fully sixty years after the Earldoms of Thomond had expired.

At that time, there being no title bearing the name, Thomond, in existence, there was no reason for the name not being revived by a kinsman’s line, which was what actually happened.

Percy Wyndham’s eldest brother Charles succeeded to their father’s baronetage, and became Sir Charles Wyndham, the second Baronet. He became 2nd. Earl of Egremont on the death in 1748 of his grandfather, the 6th. Duke of Somerset. This Charles had two sons, George born in 1787, who became 3rd. Earl of Egremont,

and William Frederick who died in 1825, leaving a son George, who became 4th. Earl of Egremont, and died sine prole, in 1845, when the title became extinct. His uncle George Wyndham had had no issue, but to preserve the large estates of O'Brien and Wyndham, he adopted a son George whom he made his heir.

Being so well endowed, it was not surprising, that this George was offered a peerage and created 1st. Baron Leconfield, who died in 1901. He was succeeded in his turn by the present peer, who was born in 1872.

Percy Wyndham was only a connection of the O'Briens, by his mother's sister's marriage to the 8th. Earl of Thomond; and was not of O'Brien blood, though he took the name "O'Brien" imposed as a condition of taking under Lord Thomond's will.

There are pictures at Dromoland Castle of the 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. and 8th. Earls of Thomond. (For particulars see Chap XVII. "Dromoland O'Briens"). At Petworth House, the seat in Sussex of Lord Leconfield are pictures of Barnabas 6th. Earl of Thomond by "Cornelius Johnson" (Janssons).

This picture is engraved, and in Mr. C. H. Collins Baker's catalogue of The Pictures at Petworth, dated 1919, it is reproduced. Here is described, bust 3/4 right, black quilted doublet, slashed sleeves, large falling white collar, red ribbon of the Bath, pointed beard long hair; signed "C.J. Fecit 1634". (The Earl died in 1657); His name is inscribed. Son of Donough 4th. Earl of Thomond, succeeded his brother in 1639. Ld. Lieut. of County Clare, sided with both parliament and King. 30 1/2 x 24 1/2 ins.

HENRY LORD O'BRIEN (C. 1670-1690), bust full face, dark gold mantle and knitted cravat, name inscribed and 1685. Oval canvas 29 x 24 ins. Son of Henry 7th. Earl of Thomond; md. 1686 Henrietta da. of Henry 1st. Duke of Beaufort, died before his father. By Mary Beale (1633-1697), pupil of Sir Peter Lely.

HENRY 8TH. EARL OF THOMOND (1688-1741) bust 3/4 rt. dark per-ruque, blue mantle, on canvas, oval, 39 x 24 ins.

HENRY 8TH. EARL OF THOMOND (another) 3/4 length, standing his head 3/4 left, resting his elbow on a ledge, on which

is a coronet, left hand in breast, scarlet coat and rose mantle, inscribed with name, and traces of older inscription lower down (55 x 43 ins.) son of Henry Lord O'Brien grandson and heir of Henry 7th. Earl of Thomond, suc. 1691 md. 1707 Lady Elizabeth Seymour, sister of Algernon, 7th. Duke of Somerset.

**HENRY 8TH. EARL OF THOMOND** (another), head and shoulders nearly full face, grey wig, red mantle — canvas octagonal 30 x 25 ins. by Sir Godfrey Kneller.

**LADY MARY O'BRIEN** 3rd. daughter of Henry O'Brien 7th. Earl of Thomond. head 3/4 left, red dress - 29x24 ins. School of Kneller.

**PERCY WYNDHAM O'BRIEN** (1723-1774) By Thomas Phillips (after Hoare), bust 3/4 rt. powdered hair, fresh complexion, black coat, white cravate and vest, grey background right, dull red curtain left. (30x25 ins.) son of Sir Wm. Wyndham 3rd. Bart, and Lady Catharine Seymour, inherited in 1741 estates of his uncle by marriage Henry O'Brien, 8th. Earl of Thomond ; created Earl of Thomond, December 1756. Died unmarried in Dover Street London. On the back :- "88 l. 7/75 James Poole Liner".

**MARY MARCHIONESS OF THOMOND.** (after Reynolds) head and shoulders 3/4 left in painted oval, brown hair, old gold mantle, with hood and white fur (29 x 24), dau. of John Palmer of Torrington, niece of Sir Joshua Reynolds, md. 1792 Murrough O'Brien 5th. Earl of Inchiquin, 1st. marquis of Thomond - original in Lord Wimborne's collection.

**LADY ELIZABETH SEYMOUR.** wife of Henry 8th. Earl of Thomond (1885 - 1734) seated full length on the grass, 3/4 left, blue dress, 60 x 57 ins. dau. of Charles 6th. Duke of Somerset, md. 1707. By Michael Dahl.

**LADY ELIZABETH SEYMOUR,** (another), 30 x 25 ins. bust full face, right hand raised, lavender grey bodice, green hood and mantle, canvas octagonal. Wife of Henry 8th. E. of Thomond. By Michael Dahl.

Bunratty, the Irish seat of the Earls of Thomond, has been described, following a tour taken through Ireland in the year 1647, by Rinuccini, the Pope's nuncio.

He wrote of it as follows :-

"I have no hesitation in asserting that it is the most beautiful spot I have ever seen. In Italy there is nothing like this palace and grounds of the Lord Thomond. Nothing like its ponds and park, with the three thousand head of deer."

Massigli, in a letter to the same nobleman, speaks of the castle and site, as "the most delightful place he has seen in Ireland. Nothing", he says "could be more beautiful, and the palace is fit for an Emperor".

NOTE. — A study of Genealogical table No. 3 referred to on page 9 is advisable, and may be obtained from the publishers on application.

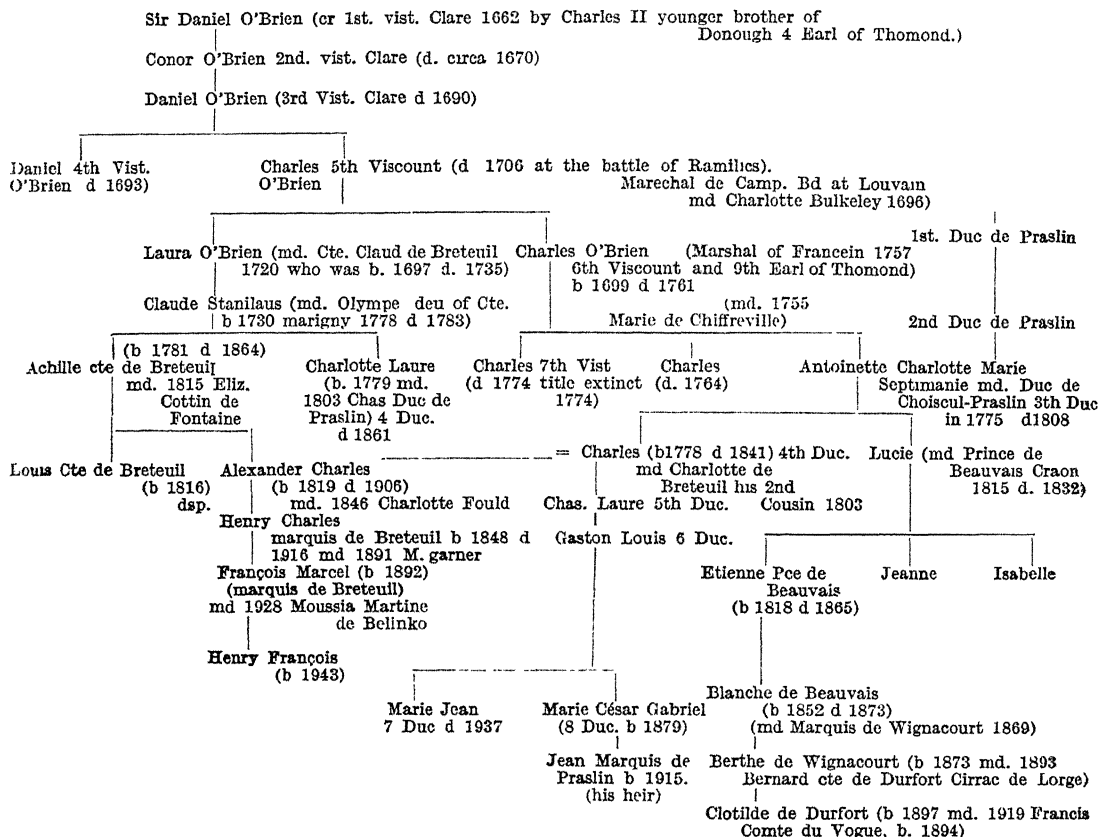
## CHAPTER VI.

### THE VISCOUNTS CLARE, OFFSHOOT OF THE EARLS OF THOMOND

It has been seen how the Earls of Thomond died out in 1741. There was, however, an heir of the blood alive and living in France in the person of the 6th Viscount Clare. The Clares were catholic, they are descended in the male line from Donough 4th Earl of Thomond's youngest brother, the 1st Viscount Clare. The 6th Viscount had become a Marshal of France, and a very distinguished person at the Court of the King of France.

His ancestor Daniel the 3rd Viscount had suffered forfeiture of his title and estates in 1691 for adhering to the Catholic cause, and fighting for James II at the battle of the Boyne. He had then fled to France and his descendants continued to live there. The 1st Viscount Clare was Daniel O'Brien, who was knighted at the battle of Leixlipp on the 1st of July 1604, and made a Viscount in 1662 by King Charles II, for his Services to the King on the Continent during his exile abroad. Though Charles O'Brien, 6th Viscount, was of the blood, being a catholic, he could not own land by law in England, or Ireland. His kinsman the 8th Earl of Thomond, having no male issue, had been seeking an heir and offered to make him his, if he would forsake his religion and enter the service of England. This he refused to do, but Lord Thomond by his will of 1738 left him £. 12,000 in cash. The Marshal, however, at Thomond's death in 1741. styled himself and was known in France as 9th Earl of Thomond; and on his death his son the 7th and last Viscount followed suit, and

## THE PEDIGREE OF THE VISCOUNTS CLARE



It will be observed that Francois Marcel the Marquis de Breteuil is descended in the female line from Charles O'Brien 5th Viscount Clare, and that Marie César the present and 8th Duke de Praslin from Charles O'Brien 6th Viscount Clare, who was Marshal of France, and became 9th Earl of Thomond in 1741 on the death of his kinsman the 8th Earl. These two Nobleman are now the Chiefs of the famous french families of de Breteuil and of Choisseul.

*Note.*—A complete genealogical table on photostat of the Viscounts Clare, from the 1st Viscount's time, and the founding of this branch, is obtainable on application to the publishers. See page 9.

It includes 140 names, and 100 dates, and measures 12 1/2 ins. by 6 1/2 ins.

called himself the 10th Earl. This was not recognised in England, where the Earldom was regarded as having expired with the 8th Earl's death because of the attainder of the 3rd Viscount in 1691.

Daniel O'Brien 1st Viscount Clare, called of Moyarta and Carrigaholt, which district and Castle of Carrigaholt are on the borders of the Shannon below the Fergus Estuary, and some twelve miles from Loophead in County Clare, was born about 1577, his eldest brother being the 4th Earl of Thomond, and his two nephews Henry and Barnabas, 5th and 6th Earls, respectively.

In 1598 Daniel found himself in charge to defend his brother Donough's Estates in Clare, while the latter was in England. The Earl of Tyrone's victory at the Yellow Ford was followed by the spread of the rebellion into Clare, and Daniel's second brother, Teige O'Brien, entered into communications with the rebels. Daniel was attacked in the Castle of Ibrickan, on which a treacherous assault was made on the 1st February 1599. The Castle surrendered and O'Brien was wounded, and made prisoner ; after a week's imprisonment at Dunboy he was released on the return of his eldest brother Thomond, and the rebels were defeated. Daniel subsequently served under his brother for the remainder of the war. He had been knighted as mentioned, in July 1604 at Lexlipp ; but he soon afterwards took opposite sides to his brother the 4th Earl of Thomond, becoming an ardent Catholic, while his brother was a protestant ; and in 1613, being then member of Parliament for County Clare, played a prominent part in the scenes attending the election of a Speaker in the Irish House of Commons. He was summoned to England to answer for his conduct, and was charged for having forcibly held Sir John Everard in the Chair. The scenes alluded to here were attendant upon the opening of the new Parliament, which was summoned by Sir Arthur Chichester, the Lord Deputy in 1613, the first that had been held for many years ; it was intended, that this Parliament should pass measures pleasing to King James 1st. and to vote large sums of money for him, he being always in need of it. The Catholic members, which included Lord Clare among them, found themselves in a minority.

The Commons consisted of 282 members of whom less than half were Catholic "recusants"; and fifty lords, of whom twenty five were Protestant bishops, with several other lay Protestants. The name "recusants" was applied to Roman Catholics who refused to attend Protestant worship.

Lord Clare threw himself with as much energy in favour of the Catholics and their grievances to obtain a measure of justice for them in the Irish Parliament, as his famous kinsman, William Smith O'Brien, who was a Protestant, more than two centuries later exercised in the English House to obtain a fair hearing for his countrymen's grievances in Parliament.

The circumstances, of which mention is now made in the Irish Parliament of 1613, were the culmination of grievances, which the Catholic Irish had been suffering during the ten previous years. It was hoped that the Catholic religion would be restored to Ireland upon the accession of James 1st to the throne of England. But, instead, the king revived the two penal Acts, of Supremacy, and Uniformity.

It will be remembered that the former imposed the obligation upon all government officers to take an oath acknowledging, that the king was spiritual head of the church; and anyone who refused was adjudged guilty of treason. By the Act of Uniformity any Catholic might be brought up and fined, if he absented himself from Protestant worship on a Sunday. Many leading citizens in Dublin were actually fined or imprisoned, but generally speaking, as the people in the country were nearly all Catholic, the Act of Supremacy could not be enforced and many Catholic magistrates, lawyers, and Government officers were permitted to discharge their duties unmolested.

A further serious grievance which had contributed to the ill temper displayed at this opening of Parliament was the forfeiture of lands to the English Government for no treasonable or unlawful Act. Such were the undeserved forfeitures of lands of the two Earls of Tyrone, and Tirconnell, both heads of the native Irish Houses of O'Neill and O'Donnell. Nearly half a million acres, equivalent to three quarters of a million English acres, of fertile land in the six counties - Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, Fermanagh, and Cavan - were confiscated to the crown, and given to settlers. Sir Arthur Chichester, who had summoned the "1613" Parliament, which is spoken of, had the management of this Plantation, which was commenced in 1608, only five years before; and the Catholic members of Parliament represented a country smarting under these injustices.

For readers, who have only vaguely heard of the Irish settlements or plantations of the time, of which this one turned out to be the most successful, a few particulars of this one may be given.

The "lots" were of three sizes :- 2,000, 1,500, and 1,000 acres. There were three classes of planters :- First : English and Scottish undertakers, who were granted 2 000 acre lots and who were required to people them with English and Scottish tenants. No Irish tenants were allowed. There was an obligation on each tenant to build a castle with a large walled enclosure round it. Second ; Those who had served the Crown in Ireland known as "Servitors" they were all to be Protestants. They got 1,500 acre lots ; their tenants might be English, Scottish or Irish, but all had to be Protestants. The holders of these 1,500 lots were obliged to build a strong house, walled about. The 1,000 acre lots might be taken by English, Scottish or Irish planters, who might be either Protestants or Catholics, but the latter were obliged to take the oath of supremacy to qualify.

Large tracts of land were given to London companies of merchants or tradesmen. Certain high officials obtained lots, including Sir Arthur Chichester, whose share was the whole of Innishowen, Sir Cahir O'Doherty's territory.

Large tracts were granted for religious and educational purposes. Trinity College, Dublin, received 9,600 acres.

Only 286 Irish proprietors obtained lots, aggregating about 58,000 acres - about one-ninth of the confiscated lands. All the rest of the native Irish were ordered : "to depart with their goods and chattels, at or before the first of May next (1609), into what other part of the realm they pleased."

The greater number remained, betaking themselves to the hills, glens and bogs, where they spent a scanty subsistence with many bitter memories.

These circumstances all led to stormy opening of Parliament, in which Lord Clare took an active share in endeavouring to counter-balance the Catholic minority of members by getting the Catholic Sir John Everard elected as Speaker, in lieu of Sir John Davies, the Protestant nominee,

We have seen how he was charged with forcibly holding Everard in the Chair, and was summoned to London to give account of his conduct. It is probable that his escape with only a reprimand was due to the good offices of his influential brother Donough 4th Earl of Thomond, the Governor of Munster, who at the time had gone

to England as agent of the Protestants. Perhaps Donough had remembered, that his brother in 1596 stoutly defended his estates in County Clare, and was wounded at the Castle of Ibrickan, while he had been on a previous mission to the English Court.

These expostulations in the Irish House produced some satisfactory results subsequently, for when Parliament met again, business was carried on quietly; and after some old penal statutes against the natives of Irish blood were repealed, large sums of money were voted for the King.

During this Parliament, which was dissolved in 1615, English law was extended to the whole of Ireland ; and though they had committed no offence to justify such a proceeding, the Earls of Tyrone and Tirconnell were attainted.

In November 1634 Lord Clare was again elected member for County Clare, not in conjunction with, but in place of his nephew Barnabas 6th Earl of Thomond, who after his election in January had gone to England. He is said to have served on the Committee of grievances, and the Lord-Deputy Wentworth found his conduct obnoxious, and an information was laid against him for his action in Parliament. This subsequently afforded the Irish House of Commons an opportunity of vindicating its right of free speech. The House was induced by Wentworth, afterwards Earl of Strafford, to vote subsidies for £ 240,000 for the king against promises not to enforce the penal statutes against the Catholics, which were never fulfilled.

In 1641 he joined the Confederation of Kilkenny, which he rigorously supported during the war, and was a member of the Supreme Council ; he took an active part in the proceedings.

He took part in the siege of Ballyally Castle in County Clare, and in 1645, he was appointed to sieze his nephew's Castle of Bunratty ten miles from Limerick, on the Clare shore of the Shannon on the Limerick-Ennis road. His plan could not be executed as it had surrendered to the Parliamentarians, under the generalship of his kinsman Murrough 1st Earl of Inchiquin.

We shall give an account of the branch to which Murrough belonged when the accounts in this and the preceding chapters, on the Earls of Thomond, and the Viscounts Clare are concluded.

In 1649 Daniel O'Brien was fighting in Clare, but the last of the strongholds there having surrendered, including Clare Castle on 5 November, and Carrigaholt Castle, the latter of which belonged to

him, on the 7th of that month of 1651, he went abroad to join Charles II. He had become a hostage, but was released. General Ireton died in Limerick on the 6th of the same month.

Carrigaholt Castle though a ruin, is still standing and preserved from going completely to decay by the attentions of the Irish Governments Commission for preservation of ancient monuments and buildings. It is finely situated, looking inland over a small harbour, which affords some anchorage, and on the other side out across the Shannon. Here the river is about three miles wide. The harbour is put to some use by ships passing up and down the river, where protection from the strong winds here is obtained. Carrigaholt is easily reached by motor car from Kilkee the well-known sea side resort, which faces the Atlantic, and is only eight miles distant. Carrigaholt is well worth a visit. The spot is romantic, and for that reason we suppose originated the legend, that on winter nights may be seen Lord Clare and his dragoons, sounding their drums to battle, and disappearing suddenly from the Castle along the cliff and into the waters of the Shannon.

The legend may be a token of his sudden departure to France on the fall of his beloved Castle. Colonel Mortagh O'Brien was in command of the Irish Brigade from 1641 to 1652, when it surrendered to the Commonwealth forces near Ennis. Colonel O'Brien was a gallant and daring soldier, who gave much trouble to the English, who were unable to round him up. Eventually two thousand men surrendered with him at Ennis, two thousand men of the Brigade having previously given in. He and his men were released on honourable terms, and allowed to return to their homes. This occurred in 1652. There was awaiting for Daniel O'Brien a tide of better fortune, for we find that he returned with King Charles II in 1660, and was mentioned in the King's Declaration, as one of the objects of his special favour ; all his estates which had been forfeited by the Republican forces were now restored to him.

In return for his own and his two sons' services, of which mention is made here, he was by patent, dated 11 July 1662 created Viscount Clare. He died in the following year at the age of about 85. He had married Catharine 3rd daughter of Gerald Fitzgerald, 16th Earl of Desmond. By her he had four sons, Donough who predeceased him, Conor his successor as 2nd Viscount, Murrough, and Teige, and seven daughters.

The 1st Viscount's eldest son, Donough, was a Captain in the Army. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Southwall of Polylong, County Cork, Kt., and died in Limerick on 6th August 1638 without issue. He was buried in St. Mary's Cathedral in the tomb of his ancestors, the Earls of Thomond.

His third son, Murrough, died without issue, having married Eleanor, the daughter of Richard Wingfield, Esq.,

Burke's Peerage of 1871 says, that he left issue, and sets out a line with gaps in it. O'Hart's Irish Pedigree. Vol. I p. 168, makes the same error. There is no evidence that he left surviving issue, or a direct male line. Had a proof of such been forthcoming, it would doubtless have been offered before. Two hundred years have elapsed since the 8th Earl of Thomond died, in 1741.

His fourth son, Teige O'Brien, married Mary, daughter of Gerald Fitzgerald of Ballyhane, Esq., This Teige had a son Donough alive in England in 1694, of whom nothing more is known.

Conor the 2nd Viscount Clare died about 1670, and was succeeded by his son Daniel, 3rd Viscount, by his wife Honora, daughter of Daniel O'Brien of Duagh. She was his third cousin. This Daniel had followed Charles II into exile, and his services rendered abroad to the Crown contributed in a measure to his grandfather being rewarded by the King with the creation of the Viscountcy of Clare after the revolution. He was lord lieutenant in County Clare in the reign of James II, became a member of the Irish Privy Council and sat in the House of Peers in Dublin in 1689.

In the King's service he raised the Clare Dragoons, called after his name, otherwise known as the Regiment of Clare, and two regiments of infantry. He died in 1690, and was succeeded by his son, Daniel the 4th Viscount. Daniel the 3rd Viscount had returned with Charles II to England at the Restoration. He had fought for James II at the Battle of the Boyne and was attainted and his estates amounting to 56,930 acres were confiscated, and granted in 1698 to Keppel, afterwards Earl of Albermarle, who sold them immediately, thus escaping the Bill subsequently passed for their restitution.

He married Philadelphia, eldest daughter of Francis Lennard Lord Dacre of the South, sister of Thomas Earl of Sussex. She died in 1662.

He had seven sisters :-

1. Margaret, who married Hugh O'Reilly, lord of East Brefsny, son of Philip O'Reilly, lord of the County of Cavan, who after



*Sir Daniel O'Brien kt., created Viscount Clare by Charles II. in 1662, brother of Donough O'Brien 4th Earl of Thomond. He was the progenitor of the Viscounts Clare, who succeeded to the Earldom of Thomond in 1741. He died in 1663.*



*Charles O'Brien, 5th Viscount Clare was killed in 1706 at the battle of Ramillies. He was Colonel of the Clare regiment, and was promoted to the rank of Major General in the French army in 1704.*

*He married Charlotte Bulkely, eldest daughter of the Honorable Henry Bulkely.*



*Charles O'Brien, 6th Viscount Clare, and 9th Earl of Thomond on the death of his kinsman the 8th Earl in 1741. He became a marshal of France in 1757, and Governor of the Province of Languedoc. He married Marie de Chiffreville in 1755. Born in 1699, he died in 1761.*



*Marie Genevieve Louisa Gauthier de Chiffreville, married Charles O'Brien 6th. Viscount Clare and 9th Earl of Thomond in 1755, by whom she had Charles 7th Viscount Clare and 10th Earl of Thomond, and Lady Antoniette Charlotte O'Brien, who married the Duke de Choiseul-Praslin (3rd Duke) in 1775.*

the restoration of Ireland by Cromwell, retired into the Spanish Service in the Netherlands. He died at Louvain, where he was buried. They had a son, Hugh, who died without issue.

2. Ellen, who married Sir Roger O'Shaughnessy of Gortinhegourah, County Galway. They had a daughter Helena, who married in 1700 Theobald Butler of Creg and Ballygegan. Their son was Francis Butler J.P. County Galway, alive in 1784, who had issue. Sir Roger was the son of Sir Dermot O'Shaughnessy who had married Margaret Barry daughter of David Viscount Buttevant.

3. Honora, who married John Fitzgerald, knight of Kerry.

4. Catharine, who married twice, first, Garrett Fitzgerald of Castle Ishin, County Cork ; secondly, to John MacNamara of Moyriesk House, County Clare.

5. Sarah, who married David O'Sullivan Beara of County Cork.

6. Mary, who married one Power of Doonil, County Waterford.

7. Anne, who died unmarried.

We omitted to mention that the 1st Lord Clare had three sisters :-

1. Mary, who married Turlogh Roe Mac Mahon, Lord of East Corcabaskin.

2. Margaret, who married, James 2nd Baron Dunboyne, who died in 1624, She died on 20 February 1636.

3. Honora, married Thomas Baron of Kerry and Lixnaw. Daniel the fourth Viscount died of wounds at Pignerol in France in 1693, where he had gone with King James II. He had been page to the King of France 1680/81. He had a sister Mary, and a brother, Charles, who succeeded him as 5th Viscount. This Charles was the second son of Daniel, 3rd Viscount, and a great grandson of Sir Daniel O'Brien 1st Viscount.

He commanded a regiment of foot in the army of James II in Ireland in 1689 and 1690 ; and in the latter year took over a cavalry regiment, and served at the 2nd Siege of Limerick.

On leaving Ireland for France in 1692, he was promoted Captain of the Gardes de Corps, and was subsequently attached to the Queen of England's dragon-à-pied, of which he became Colonel on the death of Francis O'Carrol at the battle of Massaglie on 4th October 1693.

On 8th April 1696 he became Colonel of the Clare Regiment ; so named in honor of his family, and served at Valenza, and on the Meuze during the campaign of 1696 and 1697.

On the outbreak of the war of the Spanish Succession, he joined the army of Germany, and was promoted Brigadier on 2 April 1703, and took a distinguished part in the route of the Imperialists at Hockstadt on 20th September in that year.

Promoted Major General in 1704, he commanded the three Irish Regiments of Clare, Lee, and Dorrington, at Blenheim. He cut his way out of the Village of Oberklau, and escaped with his three regiments in good order to the Rhine.

He was created Maréchal de Camp on the 2nd October 1704, and joined the army in Flanders. He was thirteen months later mortally wounded at Ramilies on 23 May 1706. He died in Bruxelles that day and was buried in the Irish monastery there. A monument to his memory was erected by his widow in the Church of the Holy Cross at Louvain.

He married in 1696 Charlotte, eldest daughter of the Honorable Henry Bulkely, who was Master of the Household to King Charles II, and James II.

Her sister Anne married in 1700, as his second wife, James Fitz-James Duc de Berwick (1670-1734).

The Duc was the natural son of James Duke of York, afterwards James II, by Arabella Churchill, daughter of Sir Winston Churchill, the elder sister of the Great Duke of Marlborough.

He was born at Moulins in the Bourbonnais. His father called him James FitzJames ; he became a naturalised French subject in 1702, and a Marshal of France.

So Charlotte Lady Clare had a brother-in-law and a son Charles, the 6th Viscount Clare, who were Marshals of France.

The Marquis de Breteuil possesses among his pictures in France a portrait of each, The portrait of the Duc de Berwick is by Hyacinth Ricard ; the artist of Marshal Thomond is not known.

He has also in his possession a fine portrait in armour of Charles the 5th Viscount Clare and of Charlotte Bulkely, the latter by Miguard, besides one of their daughter Laura O'Brien as Venus with a little boy featuring Cupid, who married Claude Charles Comte de Breteuil and of Charlotte's father painted by Largillière. He has also, a portrait of Henry Horace Lord O'Brien, son of Henry 7th Earl of Thomond and Sarah Russell, who married Lady Henrietta Somerset the daughter of Henry, Duke of Beaufort.

Their son became the 8th and last Earl of Thomond, who died in 1741, but whose title after him was borne in France by his kinsman

Marshal Clare. Henry Horace pre-deceased his father.

It may be assumed that this picture passed from England to France about this time, possibly when the Marshal received the £ 12,000 in cash under the 8th Earl's will of which mention is made elsewhere.

Charlotte Lady Clare married secondly Colonel Daniel O'Mahony at St. Germain's.

By her marriage to the 5th Viscount Clare was a daughter Laura O'Brien who married Claude Charles Comte de Breteuil in 1720, and a son Charles, who succeeded his father as the 6th Viscount.

This Charles O'Brien, had a strikingly successful career as a soldier, becoming eventually a Marshal of France. He was born on 27 March 1699. The Command of the Clare regiment descended upon its Lieutenant-Colonel, a kinsman of the Clare family, the gallant Murrough O'Brien, but 6000 livres were set aside by Louis XIV out of the emoluments of the position for the maintenance of the young Viscount. The latter had been enrolled a Captain in the French Service during his father's lifetime, but did not commence his military career till 1719, when he formed the french army in Spain.

In 1715, he paid a visit to England, and was presented to George I, who offered to procure him the reversion of the title and estates of his kinsman the 8th Earl of Thomond, who had no heir, if he would enter the English service and change his religion ; but with those conditions attached O'Brien refused to comply.

He returned to France, excited the admiration of George II by his conduct at Dettingen, and bore a distinguished part in the French victory at Fontenoy, when the balance of the Irish Brigade turned the fortune of the day, and at Roncoux and Laffeldt.

He was created a Marshal of France on the 24th February 1757, and was known as Marechal Thomond, having succeeded to the title of "Comte de Thomond" upon the death of his aforesaid kinsman, Henry 8th Earl of Thomond in 1741.

He died at Montpellier during his tenure of Command-in-Chief of the Province of Lanquedoc on 9th September 1761. By his wife Marie Genevieve Louisa Gauthier de Chiffreville he left a son Charles, Colonel of the Clare regiment, who died in Paris last of his line without issue on 29 December 1774. He had another son, Charles, but he died in 1764 at three years of age, being born on 28 August 1761. His daughter Antoinette Charlotte O'Brien married the Duc de Choiseul-Praslin.

The Viscounty of Clare and Earldom of Thomond, accordingly, became extinct. This line, which was an offshoot of the line of the Earls of Thomond, had always made their home in France, and remained Catholic. Of the Marshal's personal bearing, Mrs. Delaney writes, that he was a gay, glittering and audacious frenchman, and was thought an Adonis by a set of ladies, but in her eyes was most despicable, and exceedingly vain of person and silly.

At Dromoland Castle, County Clare, is a portrait of the first Viscount Clare, and of the seventh and last Viscount. There is preserved there, the double barrelled gun with silver-mounted stock of Charles 6th Viscount, The Marshal of France.

Confirmation of the gift of this gun by his widow to William 4th Earl of Inchiquin, who was the Marshal's senior contemporary kinsmen in Ireland is forthcoming in Lord Inchiquin's letter of the 20th May 1762 in reply to hers of the 16th April, in which he thanks her for it ; he adds that he can only offer in return to her son, the 7th Viscount Clare, a seal of the crest of the O'Brien family with the Irish motto round it.

The Earl wrote another letter on the same day to the widow in reply to one from her of the 15th April, referring to her husband's death. He says it was the first he had had of the news and described the Marshal as my very good friend and ally, who was of so great honor to his family and so affectionate to his compatriots.

Her ladyship's letter's of the 15 april and 16 april were borne from France to London by her lawyer Mr. O'Gorman :

*London May 20th 1762.*

Madam,

Three days ago Mr. O'Gorman gave me your Ladyship's letter of the 16th of April which was the first I was ever honored with by your Ladyship ; I should be very wanting in the respect I have for all your family madam, if upon being honored with a letter from you I had not answered it by the very first opportunity I had of conveying it to your hands.

My late dear good friend Marshal Thomond had the affair your Ladyship mentions so much at heart, that I should be very ungenerous and never forgive myself, if I did not do everything in my power to obey your commands on this, and every other occasion your Ladyship should please to lay them on me and which I hope you will do

whenever you think proper ; for be assured Madam, that I have the greatest respect imaginable for you, and all your noble family ; and that I am in more particular manner

Madam,

Your Ladyship's  
Most humble and most  
Obedient servant

INCHIQUIN.

I have nothing to offer to my young Lord Thomond but a seal of the crest of our family, with the Irish motto round it ; I must beg leave to return you thanks Madam for the double fusée which I shall always look upon as an inestimable jewel.

*London May 20th 1762.*

Madam,

I have been honored with your Ladyship's letter of the 15th of April by the hands of Mr. O'Gorman, and is I do assure you Madam the first letter I ever had from your Ladyship.

It was with great concern that I heard of the death of my good friend and ally the late Earl of Thomond, who was of so great Honor to his family, and so affectionate to his compatriots.

I can have no greater pleasure than fulfilling the desire of my dear late kinsman, and obeying your Commands, to the satisfaction of my young Lord and all your family, to whom I am a most affectionate kinsman and Madam with the greatest respect.

Yours Ladyship's  
Most humble and most Obedient Servant

INCHIQUIN.

The Comtesse de Breteuil exhibited a portrait, now in the possession of the Marquis de Breteuil, of the 6th Viscount, the Marshal of France, in 1935, at an exhibition held at the "Musée Décoratif" in Paris. Her husband descended from the Marshal's sister, Laura O'Brien, who married in 1720 Claude Charles Comte de Breteuil in France. Laura died in 1781, and was buried at St. Sulpice. The Marshal's daughter, sister of 7th Viscount, Antoinette Charlotte

Marie Septaminie O'Brien, who was born in Paris in 1758, married in 1775 the 3rd Duc de Choiseul Praslin. She died at Auteuil in 1808, leaving a son Charles 4th Duke of Praslin born 1778, died 1841, who married his second cousin Charlotte de Breteuil in 1803 who died in 1861 ; Antoinette also left a daughter Lucie, born in 1795, who died in 1832, she married in 1815 Prince de Bauvais-Craon. He died in 1834, and had issue Etienne Prince de Beauvais, born 1818, died 1865 ; Jeanne and Isabelle. Etienne had issue, a daughter Blanche, born in 1852, died in 1872, and married in 1869, the Marquis de Wignacourt. Their daughter Bertha de Wignacourt married in 1893 Bernard Comte de Durfort Cirrac de Lorges, whose daughter Clotilde de Durfort married in 1919, Francis Comte du Voguë, who was born in 1894. The 8th Duc de Praslin, whom it is seen from the plan to this chapter, is descended on the female side from Marshal Thomond's daughter Antoinette Septimanie O'Brien, has inherited some interesting O'Brien correspondence.

The above two letters are among them, and of special interest are three letters from Louis XV, signed by the King with his Majesty's seal attached to each. They were written to the Marshal during his tenure of office of Commander-in-Chief of the Province of Languedoc. The King expresses his regard for him personally coupled with approval and appreciation of the Marshal's effort in the King's interests in the Province.

“Mon Cousin, Le compte que vous me rendés de la délibération  
 “de l'Assemblée des Etats de ma Province de Languedoc, et l'empresse-  
 “ment unanime des Deputés qui la compose accorder les somme-  
 “que je leur ay fait demander justifient parfaitement l'idée que  
 “j'ay des sentiments de mes sujets de cette Province sur ce qui a  
 “rapport a l'exécution de mes intentions ; le zèle des Deputés s'est  
 “étendu sur tous les objets que les circonstances m'ont mis dans  
 “le cas de faire présenter à l'assemblée.

“La connaissance que j'ay depuis longtemps de ce même zèle  
 “me répondoit du nouveau témoignage que j'en reçois aujourd'hui,  
 “il me touche aussy vivement que peuvent le souhaiter tous ceux  
 “qui ont concouru par leur suffrage a une délibération aussy utile  
 “au bien de mon service.

“Je ne doute pas de la part que vous y aurés eu ; et je vous  
 “en sçais autant de gré que de la conduite par laquelle vous cher-  
 “chés a meriter de plus en plus l'affection particulière que j'ay pour

“vous. Je prie Dieu qu’il vous ait, Mon Cousin, en sa Sainte et digne  
“garde.”

“A Versailles, le 9 Fevrier 1759.”

“Louis”

“A mon Cousin le Marechal de Thomond Ch<sup>er</sup> de mes Ordres  
“Commandant dans ma Province de Languedoc.

“Mon Cousin, Je suis toujours egallment touché des temoinages  
“que je reçois du zeile des Deputés qui composent l’Assemblée des  
“Etats de ma Province de Languedoc a accorder les sommes qui  
“leur sont demandées de ma part ; plus les circonstances exigent  
“des sommes essentiels, plus elles en augmentent le prix, aussy le  
“gré que je sçais a mes sujets de cette Province de l’empressement  
“qui les fait agir dans une circonstance aussy interessante pour le  
“bien de mon service répond il parfaitement a leurs efforts, ne nég-  
“ligés rien pour le faire connoitre aux Députés et marquer a quel  
“point je suis content de leur conduite, je ne le suis pas moins de la  
“vôtre et lui rends aussy volontiers justice qu’aux services par les  
“quels je vous ay toujours vu occupé de meriter de plus en plus  
“l’affection particulier que j’ay pour vous. Je prie Dieu qu’il vous  
“ait, Mon Cousin, en sa Sainte et digne garde.”

“A Versailles le 11 xbre 1759”.

“Louis”

“A mon Cousin le Marechal de Thomond Chev<sup>er</sup> de mes ordres  
“Commandant dans ma Province de Languedoc.

“Mon Cousin, le compte que vous me rendés de la deliberation  
“de l’Assemblée des Etats de ma Province de Languedoc ne me lais-  
“se aucun doute sur l’impressement unanime des Deputés qui la  
“composent a se conformer a mes intentions en accordant les som-  
“mes que vous leur avés demandé de ma part assuré de leurs senti-  
“ments sur ce qui peut me plaire et ce qui interesse le bien de mon  
“service je m’attendois aux nouveaux témoignages que j’en reçois  
“aujourd’huy je rends bien volontiers justice au zeile des états et a  
“leurs efforts, rien n’est plus capable de me confirmer dans les dis-  
“positions favorables ou je suis pour eux, et dont je leur ay donné  
“des preuves avec plaisir, que le conduite des Deputés dans cette  
“Assemblée. Je vous charge de les assurer de la satisfaction que j’en  
“ay ; je ne suis pas moins content de celle par les quelles vous avés

“en cette occasion, comme en toute autre, cherché a justifier ma fiancée et à mériter de plus en plus l'affection particulière que j'ay pour vous.

“Je prie Dieu qu'il vous ait, Mon Cousin, en sa Sainte et digne garde.”

“A Versailles le 9 Décembre 1760”

“LOUIS”

“A mon Cousin le Marechal de Thomond Chevr<sup>er</sup> de mes Ordres  
“Commandant dans ma Province de Languedoc”.

There are three other letters, each to the Marshal Thomond's wife (née Chiffreville), signed by James Francis Edward, Le Chevalier de St. George, the son of James II, who was the Stuart pretender to the Crown of England. Each letter bears his signature : Jacques R. with his seal attached and are set out here.

The last two letters were written in 1762 a year after her husband's death. It will be remembered that James Francis Edward succeeded to his father James II's Stuart honors in 1701 and was born in 1688 of James' second wife ; he died in 1766.

A reference to the chapter in this book on the “Dromoland O'Briens” will show that his half sisters, Queens Mary and Anne of England, were first cousins by marriage to Lucius O'Brien of Dromoland by the latter's marriage to Catharine Keightley, a first cousin of the two queens, and consequently the pretender was also Lucius' first cousin by marriage.

A ma cousine La Marechalle Comtesse de Thomond.

Ma cousine. Je prend en très bonne part votre lettre du 16 Mars. Je vous souhaite toute sorte de bonheurs à l'occasion de votre mariage, et vous devez être bien persuadée des sentiments pleins d'estime et d'amitié que je conserveray toujours pour vous. Sur ce je prie Dieu, qu'il vous ait, ma cousine, en sa sainte et digne garde.

A Rome ce 7 Avril 1755.

Votre affectionné cousin

JACQUES R.

The above letter was written to Mlle. de Chiffreville on the occasion of her marriage to the Earl of Thomond (6th Viscount Clare) on the 10th March 1755.

The second and third letters were written in 1762, during her widowhood. The second reads thus :-

‘A la Marechalle Comtesse de Thomond,

“Ma cousine, je suis très sensible au compliment que vous me faites a l’occasion de la nouvelle année. Je connois depuis longtemps vos sentiments pour moy, et rends justice a leur sincerité, et vous devez être toujours bien persuadée que les miens pour vous sont tels que vous meritez. Sur cela prie Dieu qu’il vous ayt, Ma Cousine, en sa sainte et digne garde.

“A Rome le 17 Janvier, 1762.”

“Votre affectionné cousin”

“JACQUES R.”

The third letter read:-

“Madame la Maréchalle de Thomond.”

“Ma cousine, Je suis bien persuadé, de la sincerité de vos sentiments pour moy en tout temps, et vous remercie en particulier de ceux que vous venez d’exprimer dans votre lettre sur La Nouvelle Année.

“L’empressement avec lequel je saisirai toutes les occasions, qu’elle pourra me fournir de vous obliger, vous sera garant des sentiments de la vraie estime et de l’amitié constante avec lesquels je suis, ma Cousine.”

“A Rome ce 2 Février 1762.”

“Votre affectionné cousin”

“A ma cousine Madame La Marechalle Comtesse de Thomond  
a Paris.                      Scaled, but unsigned.

The seal of “Jacques R”, which appears on these letters, consisted of a Cardinal’s hat showing the Catholic cause, surmounting a King’s Crown. The tassels of the hat are suspended on either side of the arms, which have four quarterings :-

1st and 4th are each quartered with French fleurs de lys, and the three leopards of England in pale ; the 2nd and 3rd consist of the royal arms of Scotland, and of the harp of Ireland.

On the Seal of Louis XV on the 3 letters mentioned bearing his signature appears simply the 3 fleurs de lys.

The Stuart pretender is observed to be blazoning in his arms the French fleurs de lys about 150 years after the Crown of England had lost any claim to the sovereignty of the country.

His sister, Queen Anne, always styled herself, it appears, Queen of France. This belated claim is borne witness to by her statue which now stands outside St. Paul's Cathedral in London. There are four emblematic figures on its four corners, one of which is La Belle France. This absurd pretension was finally discarded in the reign of George III.

It may be of interest to mention that another figure on the statue consists of an indian girl complete with feathered head-dress, and a quiver of arrows, representing the American Colonies, now the United States of America.

The declaration of independence did not come for many years after Queen Anne's death of course ; but American visitors probably look on this figure with great interest.

The third and fourth figures on the statue are of Britain and Ireland. As regards the 4th, this may perhaps be considered out-moded just as the 3rd quartering with the harp of Ireland on the English half-crown appears to be, since Eire declared its independence, and founded a republic excluding from its Constitution the King of England, and substituting an Irish elected President as head of the State.

The same half-crown contains the two abbreviated words "Ind. Imp", or Emperor of India. Here again before the lapse of many years this sign may disappear, since the government of India has now been handed over to the Indian peoples. •

As the Regiment of Clare is mentioned here, it is of interest to give some particulars of it.

The regiment was founded in 1690 by Daniel O'Brien 3rd. Viscount Clare, and below is given the list of the Commanders until 1775, when at the death of the last and 7th Viscount in 1774, the regiment was incorporated with that of Berwick.

Third Viscount Clare, Daniel, 1690

Honorable Daniel O'Brien 1693 (afterwards 4th Viscount).  
Mons. de Lee.

Mons. de Talbot, to 1699

Charles 5th Viscount Clare, killed at Ramilies 1706.

Mons. O'Brien, till 1720, Lt. Col. Murrough O'Brien a kinsman  
of the Viscounts Clare.

Charles 6th Viscount Clare, 9th Earl of Thomond, Marshal of France to 1761.

Charles 7th Viscount Clare 1771.

The regiment was officered for the most part by, and owned by, The O'Briens for upwards of 150 years. Other large brigades were founded on the continent on similar lines, to obtain a commission in which, an applicant had often to present credentials in the form of his pedigree. Hence, we find that many such were taken abroad for his and similar purposes of identification and the like, and have become lost or destroyed. It is probable, that some are still among the manuscripts of foreign libraries. A genealogist with time and the inclination to search, might be well rewarded with some interesting discoveries.

The letters patent of Charles II dated 11 July 1662, conferring the title of Viscount Clare on Sir Daniel O'Brien of Moyarta and Carrigaholt, is given here :-

“Whereas the ancient and illustrious family of the O'Briens, “distinguished by certain and undoubted testimonies for its fealty “and allegiance to us, has flourished for centuries past in this our “kingdom of Ireland through a long line of distinguished ancestors, “and has been so conspicuous for the splendour and renown of its “race and blood that it yields to few. And whereas our faithful and “beloved Daniel O'Brien of Carrigaholt in our County of Clare, in “our province of Munster, in our said Kingdom of Ireland, Knight, “is descended of that aforesaid most honorable lineage, and by very “many faithful and acceptable services heretofore rendered to us and “to our crown, has proved himself a true heir to the virtues of that “said most noble family of O'Brien, and by the opulence of his fortune “and extent of his estates, is able to bear, and can support and “execute the duties of any office which may be committed to his charge “in the most laudable and honorable manner. Now, We, considering the “worth of the said Daniel, and desiring to add something to the honors already conferred by our progenitors on the said family, have “of our royal munificence resolved to show him a mark of our royal “favor, and to enrol him in the ranks of the heroes and peers of this “Kingdom by advancing him to the state and degree of a Viscount of “the same. Know ye therefore, etc.”

The above is translated from the role of the 14th of Charles II.

## TITLES OF HONOUR, BY THE NAME "CLARE"

The name "Clare" occurs as a title four times in history ; twice as a Viscounty (O'Brien), and twice when an Earldom was granted.

In the 17th Century in 1624 John Holles was created an Earl of Clare, which creation died out in 1689 at the death of Gilbert Holles his grandson, the 3rd and last Earl.

It is interesting to note, that the "Viscounty" of Clare (O'Brien) was granted to Sir Daniel O'Brien in 1663, and was in consequence a new creation of the title "Clare", granted while the Earldom of the name was in existence.

The second creation of an Earldom of "Clare" was granted 170 years later, in 1795, and twenty one years after the expiry of the Viscounty of "Clare" (O'Brien) in 1774, to John Fitzgibbon of Mount Shannon in County Limerick, who was born near Donnybrook ; so in that case two "Clare" titles did not overlap. Fitzgibbon's father John, a barrister and M.P. came from County Limerick, and owned Mount Shannon ; he may have had some County Clare property or connections as well. But John Holles' father, Densil, came from Nottingham and had apparently no connection with the County Clare. The 1st Earl of Clare (Holles) was born in 1564 and died in 1637 ; he is known to have spent some time at the Court of Queen Elizabeth, and became one of her gentleman pensioners. He volunteered to fight against the Spanish Armada, and he fought in Ireland under the Lord deputy, FitzWilliam, who knighted him in 1607. He was created Baron Holles of Haughton, which is recorded to have cost him £ 10,000 ; he paid £ 5,000 for his subsequent Earldom.

His son John succeeded him as 2nd Earl of Clare (born in 1595 and died in 1666);and his grandson Gilbert (born in 1633 and died in 1689) succeeded his father as 3rd and last Earl of that creation.

The 1st Earl of "Clare" (Fitzgibbon) was born in 1749, becoming Attorney General for Ireland in 1784, when he was raised to the peerage as Baron Fitzgibbon of Connello. In 1793 he became Viscount Fitzgibbon, and in 1795 he took the name of "Clare" for his title, when raised to an Earldom.

His son John Fitzgibbon K.P. G.C.H., became the 2nd Earl at his father's death, and was Lord Lieutenant of the County of Limerick; but dying without issue in 1851, he was succeeded by his brother, as 3rd and last Earl of this creation, Richard Hobart

Fitzgibbon, (born in 1793 and died in 1864). Richard had a son John Charles Henry Fitzgibbon, who was educated at Christchurch, Oxford, and became Governor of Bombay. He was born in 1822, but died in 1854 in his father's lifetime. Mount Shannon had continued to be the family seat. Its motto was "Nil admirari." The second viscounty of Clare was granted in 1776 to Robert Nugent simulanteously with the Earldom of Nugent and 2 years after the O'Brien Viscounty of Clare had been extinct. On his death the Viscounty expired with the Earldom in 1788.

To sum up '-

The Holles, Earldom of Clare, 1624 to 1689 - had lasted 65 years.

The O'Brien, Viscounty of Clare, 1663 to 1774 - 110 years, and the "Nugent" Viscounty of Clare, 1776 to 1788 - 12 years. The Fitzgibbon, Earldom of Clare, 1795 to 1851 - 56 years.

The above short analysis of the titles bearing the name of "Clare" may dispel some confusion in readers' minds, and demonstrate that there was no kinship between the four lines concerned.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE ENNISTYMON O'BRIENS.

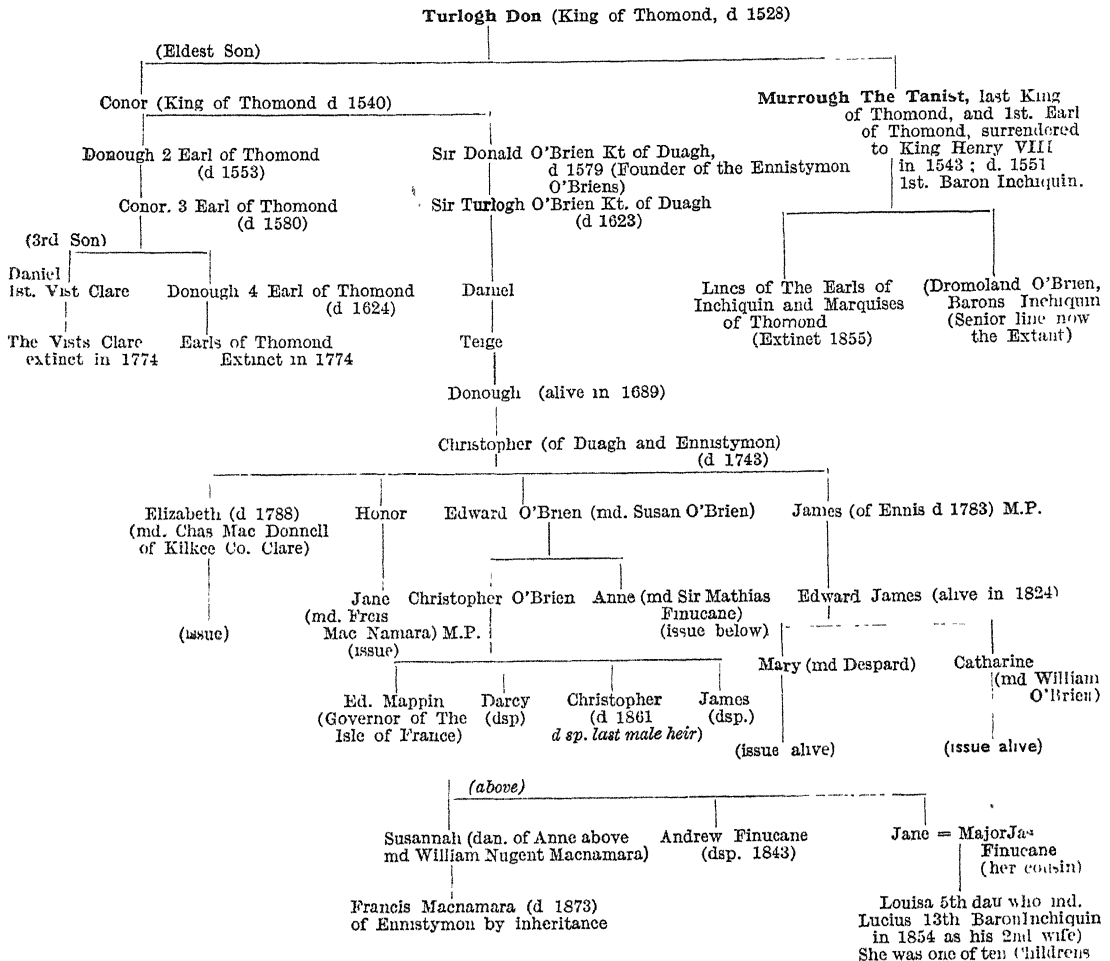
(WITH AN ACCOUNT OF CARRIGOGUNNELL) (WITH REFERENCE  
TO THE EARLS OF LISMORE AND VISCOUNTS TALLOW)

We have seen how Donald O'Brien, later created a Knight by Queen Elizabeth, younger grandson of Turlogh Don and brother of Donough 2nd Earl of Thomond, had resented the terms of surrender to King Henry VIII in 1543, and the re-granting of the family lands under terms that converted them to lands passing by inheritance, and alienable by will of the owner.

It is remembered that Donald's uncle, Murrough the Tanist, and this Donough had repaired from Ireland to Greenwich in that year, and accepted terms of surrender at the hands of the King. We pointed out that thenceforth, Donald and the others of his clan, who had previously shared in the usufruct of the estates under the system of Gavelkind, now found themselves faced with hardship and loss of income. Resentment and anger at the change, which seemed only to benefit Murrough, now 1st Earl of Thomond and Baron Inchiquin, and his nephew Donough subsequently the 2nd Earl, fanned by Donald and others of the clan, caused a split in the family; and Donough, as the successor apparent to Murrough, became in particular the target for revenge.

Donough, who was known as the "fat", died a violent death, which he was believed to have suffered at the hands of Donald's followers, some said at the latter's own hands. Donough, had a son Conor who was destined to succeed his father, as the 3rd Earl of Thomond. Thus Donald's succession to the inheritance was exceedingly improbable. In any event he could not have succeeded

**PEDIGREE OF THE ENNISTYMON O'BRIENS**  
**FROM TURLOGH DON KING OF THOMOND, WHO DIED 1528.**



*Note.*— A very full genealogical table, on photostat, may be purchased, on application to the publishers, 24" x 10". It includes 400 names and 300 dates. See page 9.

to either of the titles of Earl of Thomond or Baron of Inchiquin granted to his uncle ; or to the Barony of Ibricken bestowed by the king on Donough ;

When the Earldom of Thomond, and Barony of Ibricken, died out in 1774, two centuries later, Donald's heirs could not succeed to them, the grants having been made to Donough without recourse to Donough's younger brother Donald.

Sir Donald was the founder of the Duagh O'Briens, later known as the Ennistymon O'Briens. He was appointed by Sir Henry Sidney, Queen Elizabeth's Lord Deputy, the Governor of County Clare in 1576.

In this year Thomond was separated from Connaught, and made part of Munster at the request of Conor 3rd Earl of Thomond. Donald's descendants a century later left Duagh Castle at the mouth of the river that runs into Liscannor Bay, to live at Ennistymon some three miles distant up the river. The property had evidently belonged to Henry 8th Earl of Thomond their kinsman, because we find that in 1712 the Earl made a lease for ever in that year to his kinsman, Christopher O'Brien at a yearly rent of £45. Sir Donald died in 1579, and was then the owner of land at Ennistymon and at Liscannor, including the Castle of Liscannor, and of one moiety of the tithes of Clare Abbey, two miles from Clare Castle off the Clarccastle-Ennis road. He was receiving a yearly rent of £22, known as, "O'Brien's Rent", from Corcomroe, and a further rent of £10 from another part of that Barony.

This branch of the O'Briens enjoyed no titles of honour, other than the knighthoods given to Donald, and his son, Turlogh. It is seen that it is descended directly from Turlogh Don through his younger grandson, and possessed considerable estates in the County of Clare, which were acquired or regranted, subsequent to the settlements of the family disputes alluded to. Its reconciliation to the Queen's policy in Ireland is shown by the fact that Donald and his son both received knighthoods at her hands, and it is interesting to note the trust that was reposed in both to execute her orders in the County. By a grant dated 1575, Sir Turlogh O'Brien was made Seneschal of the baronies of Corcomroe and of Burren and by a tripartite deed to which the Queen was a signatory he was granted lands in 1585. In these pages we give some details of these grants. Further evidence of the Queen's confidence in their loyalty to her purposes is shown by the fact, that Sir Turlogh was summoned as member



*The Honorable Laura O'Brien, daughter of Charles O'Brien 5th Viscount Clare who married Claude Charles comte de Breteuil in 1720. She was sister of, Charles O'Brien 6th Viscount Clare and Marshal of France.*



*The Lady Antoinette Charlotte Septimanie O'Brien, daughter of Charles O'Brien 6th Viscount Clare and 9th Earl of Thomond, who became a Marshal of France in 1757. She married in 1775 the Duc de Choiseul-Praslin (the third Duke), and died in 1808.*



*Charlotte Bulkely, eldest daughter of The Honorable Henry Bulkely, master of the household to Charles II and James II. She married Charles O'Brien, 5th Viscount Clare, who was killed at the battle of Ramillies in 1706. The mother of the 6th Viscount, the Marshal of France. Painted by Mignard.*



*Honorable Henry Bulkeley Master of the household to Charles II. and James II father of Charlotte Bulkeley wife of 5th Viscount Clare.*

of the County of Clare to attend her Parliament, convoked in that year in Dublin. The last male heir of this Ennistymon branch of the "Thomonds", was Christopher O'Brien, the great grandson of the Donough, who moved from Duagh Castle to Ennistymon, who was himself the great grandson of Sir Turlogh. This Christopher died unmarried in 1861. The family continued through the female line through his uncle James O'Brien of Ennis, who had died in 1788, and whose grand children were Mary and Katharine O'Brien.

They had no brother. Mary died in 1890 married Philip Despard a descendant of Philippe l'Esparre, who fled to England from the Massacre of St. Bartholomew, and was sent by Queen Elizabeth to Ireland as a royal Commissioner. Katharine born in 1814 died in 1857, married in 1841 William O'Brien, who was born in 1808 and died in 1872, and was great grandson of Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd Bart. of Dromoland. Both these lines of descent are now flourishing under their respective names of Despard and O'Brien.

Anne O'Brien, the daughter of Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon inherited the Ennistymon House and Estates, and her daughter Susanna succeeded her, who marrying William Nugent MacNamara passed them on to her son Francis MacNamara.

The latter was the grandfather of the late owner, Mr. Francis MacNamara, who died in 1946.

The House of Ennistymon is a fine mansion of imposing size, and is situated on high ground overlooking the dashing waters of the river, that flows here over a rocky river-bottom, in front of the house and grounds.

When the river is in spate it presents a fine sight, and on subsiding, there is first rate trout fishing to be had in its waters. The waters empty themselves at Liscannor Bay, hard by the old Castle of Duagh, whence the family had migrated some two centuries previously.

There is a fine collection of O'Brien, and Finucane pictures. There are pictures of Daniel 3rd Vist. Clare whose father Conor 2nd Viscount Clare had married Honor O'Brien his third cousin, and a daughter of Daniel O'Brien of Ennistymon. The estates of Carrigaholt, overlooking the Shannon, of the 3rd Viscount, had been forfeited, including his Castle, in 1691, a year after his death. This resulted from his support of the cause of James II in Ireland, and his share in the battle of the Boyne and the defence of Limerick City.

Carrigaholt Castle is some thirty miles distant from Ennistymon. An account of it will be found in the chapter on the Viscounts Clare, branch of the O'Brien family.

There are also two pictures of the Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland, Mathias Finucane, who married in 1775 Anne, one of the daughters of Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon House, and who left her a widow in 1814. He is in his robes. It is painted by Stephen Slaughter. There is a picture of some note of Mary MacMahon, known as red Mary, from the colour of her hair. She was the wife of Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle, 20 miles distant, who was slain at Liscronan outside the Castle, by Ireton's troops in 1651, when it was besieged and forced to surrender to the Commonwealth forces. As will be seen later, the O'Briens of Lemeneagh Castle have been residing since 1685 at Dromoland, and are now the head line of the O'Briens. In the chapter dealing with this line we give an account of Mary MacMahon; her daughter Honora married Donough O'Brien of Duagh and Ennistymon, and her son by Conor O'Brien was Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bt. who migrated to Dromoland about 1685.

It is seen that the O'Briens (Viscounts Clare) of Carrigaholt, the O'Briens of Duagh and Ennistymon, and the Lemeneagh Castle O'Briens, were closely related by marriage.

Their residences were inside the county about twenty five to thirty miles apart. In about 1680 these branches were living in Castles that were built to resist weapons of iron; but the introduction, and improvement of firearms as weapons of war rendered the Castles useless as fortresses. We find their owners beginning to build residences, which were not intended to offer defence.

All over Ireland the movement set in and many of the old castles have been allowed to go to decay, although some have been lived in until comparatively recent times. Perhaps two of the most formidable and largest of their kind were Bunratty Castle on the Shannon, ten miles from Limerick City, where the O'Briens, Earls of Thomond lived; and Lemeneagh Castle. Both are now uninhabitable and in a ruinous state, but are conserved by the Irish Commission for the preservation of ancient Irish monuments and buildings. Yet both are well worth a visit. It is possible to mount to the top of each by the stone stairways.

They are imposing structures and emblematic of the country's history and traditions. From Bunratty may be seen the ancient ruin of the O'Brien Castle of Carrigunnell. The latter stands on an emi-

nence on the opposite side of the Shannon, about a mile and a half from the river bank. It commands one of the finest views of the counties of Limerick and Clare.

On a fine day the spires of the churches of Limerick City, eight miles away, can be seen ; and looking down the Shannon its junction with the river Fergus some miles away is discerned; beyond, still further, the harbour of Foynes.

Carrigunnell Castle must be reached from Limerick. A grant of the lands and the Castle for ever at a yearly rent of 60 marks was made by King John in A.D. 1209 to Donough Cairbreach O'Brien. The latter had done homage to the King at Waterford, for which act his brothers drove him from the Castle, obliging him to take refuge at Clonroad, near Ennis, in County Clare. Donough Cairbreach O'Brien, who was King of Limerick and of Munster, died in 1242. The Castle of Carrigunnell became the home of Conor O'Brien and his descendants, who became known as the "Pobble" O'Briens ; Pobble being the name of the Barony in which the Estate was situated.

Until a century ago they lived here, but it has not been possible to trace its present representative with any certainty, though there are O'Briens living now in the vicinity of the Castle.

We give here an extract from a compilation we made of this branch's genealogy, culled from available records. Conor was sixth in male line descent from Donough Cairbreach O'Brien.

He was King of Thomond and died in 1426. He was immediately succeeded in the kingdom by his nephew Teige an Glemore, son of Brian Catha an Aonaigh, who was inaugurated in his place. Conor had three sons ; Dermot, who left no issue ; Donald Bishop of Limerick ; and Brian Duff, who carried on the line of the Carrigunnell O'Briens, and is said to have given the name "Pobble Brian", to the Barony of that name in the County of Limerick.

It will be seen from this table that the Carrigunnell O'Briens went into two branches in the time of Mahon, great grandson of Conor O'Brien, who died in 1642.

The eldest son, Donough remained at Carrigunnell Castle, while his younger brother Mortogh became the progenitor of the branch, that eventually distinguished itself by its military prowess in France. Six generations from this Mortogh, Murrough O'Brien, of Carrigunnell, was found supporting James II and the Catholic cause, fighting in the regiment of Clare at the battle of the Boyne,

# THE EARL OF LISMORE AND VISCOUNTS TALLOW, AND BARONY OF CASTLE LYONS OF IRELAND.

Brian Boroimhe (d 1014) (*Monarch of Ireland*)

Teige (d 1023)

Donough (d. Rome 1064)

Turlogh (d 1086)

Dermot (d 1113)

Turlogh (d 1167)

Donaldmore (d. 1194)

Donough Cairbreach (d 1242) to whom the Castle and lands of Carrigogunnell were granted by King John)

Conor na Suidane (d 1258)

Teige Caeluisce (d 1259)

Torlogh (d 1206)

Mortogh (d 1343)

Mahon Moimoy (d 1369)

Some O'Brien Titles,  
now extinct, granted  
by The Pretender,  
James III, in Exile  
in France.

Brien Catha an Aeneagh (d 1399)  
(à quo The Earls of Thomond)

Conor O'Brien (d 1426 of Carrigogunnell  
Curreyglass and Mogealy Co Cork

Donald (Bishop of Limerick)

Brian Duff (of Carrigogunnell  
and Foble)

Dermot (dsp.)

Donough (d 1592. md. Margaret  
O'Kennedy Lord of Ahelow)

Mahon (md Eliz. O'Brien of Ara)

(Eldest) (2nd Son)

Donough

Mortogh

Brian Duff (dsp.)

Mor and Earl  
of Desmond  
John Fitz  
Thomas)

Donald

Murrough (beheaded by  
Sir Wm. Drury  
in Limerick in 1577)

Donough

Turlogh

Teige

Donough

Brian Duff

Turlogh

Donough

Eugene

Daniel

John

Donough

Teige

Daniel

Terence

Murrough

Eugene

Daniel

Eugene

(living in 1782 at  
Glin Co. Limerick)

Morgan

Eugene (above)

Mortogh

Son (Capt. in the  
Regt. of Clare)

Margaret

(md. 2nd Viscount  
Tallow)

Murrough O'Brien (of Carrigogunnell, fought at the  
battle of the Boyne came to France with James II,  
Daniel, Baron of Castle Lyons in Ireland cr. by James  
III 1725 Earl of Lismore and Vist. Tallow 1746.  
Col. James Daniel O'Brien (md Margaret O'Brien); 2nd  
Earl of Lismore, and 2 Vist. Tallow. His honors  
expired at his death) (b 1736 d 1780) (of Currey  
glass; Mogealy Co. Cork, and of Carrigogunnell)

(Daniel's descendants are believed to  
be now living near Carrigogunnell)

Daniel (md Helen Barry of Cork in 1618 and 2nd  
Susan Jans in 1645 à quo by the 2nd  
marriage the Dutch O'Briens are still  
extant in Holland.)

Mortogh Conor Donald Anwer Dermot Mahon Teige Donough

and fleeing Ireland with the King to France. James III created his son, Daniel in 1725 Baron of Castle Lyons, and in 1746 Viscount Tallow and Earl of Lismore. These were "Stuart" titles granted, while the Court was in exile in France. Daniel's son, James Daniel, who was born in 1736 and died without male issue in 1780, had succeeded to the latter two honours, which at his decease expired for lack of male heirs.

Sir Donald O'Brien died in 1579, and was buried in Ennis Abbey. He had married his first cousin, Slaney O'Brien, daughter of Murrrough the Tanist, who had made the surrender in 1543 to Henry VIII, to which he had so strongly objected at the time.

A fine monument with effigy in stone of himself and his wife may be seen in the Abbey. Many of his ancestors had been buried there before him. The Abbey was founded in 1240, by Donough Cairbreach O'Brien for conventual Franciscan friars at Ennis. From its size, beauty and surroundings, it was regarded as one of the principal convents of the order in Ireland. Its ruins are still in tolerable preservation. There is a fine east window. To the year 1396 in the Annals of the Four Masters, O'Flaherty adds his entry :- "Campanile flamme destructum" (Tower destroyed by lightning).

Here is a list of some of Donald's ancestors buried here. In A.D. 1306 Turlogh O'Brien King of Thomond died, and was buried in the Monastery. In the same year Cuveda More MacNamara died and was buried with his King in this monastery (said Turlogh O'Brien). In 1313 Dermot O'Brien, prince of Thomond, was buried in the Monastery, in the habit of a Franciscan Friar. In 1343, Murtogh, son of Turlogh King of Thomond died on the 5th of June, and was buried here.

In the same year was buried here Mahone Dall MacNamara who built the refectory and sacristy of the Church, in the habit of the order. In 1350 Pope Clement VI granted several indulgencies to this monastery, and Turlogh, the son of Donough O'Brien was interred there.

In 1364 Dermot O'Brien, late King of Thomond, died on the vigil of the Conversion of St. Paul, at Ardrahan, in the County of Galway, but was buried in the Abbey at Ennis. In 1370 Mahon Moinmoy O'Brien, King of Thomond, dying on the feast of St. Phillip and St. James, was buried here. It may be worth mentioning that in 1577 Queen Elizabeth was then in possession of the site of the monastery, as appears in the Public Record Office in Dublin, and was receiv-

ing a rent ; she possessed a mill on the Fergus, an eel and salmon weir, with some houses and gardens in the village of Ennis. In 1621 she granted them to William Donegan, Esq.

Sir Donald's Son Turlogh, who succeeded him, went to England and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1583. Sir Turlogh O'Brien with his kinsman and second cousin once removed, Donough the 4th Earl of Thomond, who was Governor of Munster, attended with Boetius Clancy High Sheriff of the County in 1585, the Parliament convoked by the Queen in Dublin, as representative of the County of Clare ; O'Brien and Clancy as members of Parliament. Another kinsman Murrough 4th Baron Inchiquin attended as a peer. He was third cousin of the Earl of Thomond attending.

About the time of Sir Turlogh O'Brien, English was hardly spoken in Ireland ; probably the Earl of Thomond could speak it well, as he had been brought up at the English Court. But Frost, in his History of the County of Clare, expresses doubt as to the sonnets we give below issuing from the pen of Sir Turlogh O'Brien to whom they are attributed. Sir John Davis, however, says, that many of the people of Clare spoke good English in his time, and that the Chiefs appeared in "Civil habit and fashion", but that the common people were not so reformed as the people of Limerick and Cork (Calendar of State Papers, May 1606). Here are the Sonnets of Sir Turlogh O'Brien :-

"I would that I were  
A voiceless sighe,  
Floating through Ayre".

\*\*

"Unperceived I would steele 'oer thy cheeks of downe  
And kiss thy soft lippes unchecked by a frowne,  
I would that I were a dying tone  
To dwell on thine eare  
Though the magic were gone ;  
I would charm thy heart with my latest breathe,  
And yield thee pleasure e'en in my deathe.  
I would I might pass from this living tombe,  
Into the Violets sweetest perfume ;  
On the wings of the morning to thee would I fly,  
And mingle my soul with thy sweetest sighe.

My hearte is bounde  
With a viewless chayne,  
I see no wounds,  
And I feel its payne.

Break my prison and set me free,  
Bondage, though sweete, has no charme for me,  
Yet now e'en in fetters my fond hearte will dwelle  
Since thy shaddow floats o'er it and hallowes my celle".

In the year 1585 Donough 4th Earl of Thomond, Sir Turlogh O'Brien, and Murrough 4th Baron Inchiquin obtained a grant jointly by a tripartite indenture from Queen Elizabeth, to which the Queen was a party, of lands or holdings in parte or parcell, of the Province of Connaught, called Thomond. "These lands, the deed witnesseth, are in the Country or territorie of Thomond, which is divided, it explains, into nine principall Baronies, that is to say :

- 1.—Barony of Tullaghynaspyll.
- 2.—Barony of Dengynvyggon.
- 3.—Barony of Clonraude, otherwise called "The islands".
- 4.—The Barony of Clunderala, otherwise called "East Corcabaskine".
- 5.—The Barony of Moarte, otherwise called "West Corcabaskine"
- 6.—The Barony of Ibrackane.
- 7.—The Barony of Corcumrow, otherwise called "Donghycomogher".
- 8.—The Barony of Gragans, otherwise called "Burren".
- 9.—The Barony of Tullaghydae.

The principal Chieftains, freeholders and farmers and inhabitants of these lands or holdings in parte or parcell were also signatories to the deed. This grant of lands was subsequently confirmed to Daniel (Donald) O'Brien, son of Sir Turlogh O'Brien by King James I in a letter in 1625. The Queen had ten years before the deed making the grant was signed, viz on 13 March 1575 appointed Sir Turlogh O'Brien by grant, and subsequently Letters patent were issued, Seneschall of the two Baronies of Corkamroe and Burren in the County of Clare, previous of Munster, "to enjoy the said office with profits, for so long a time", the grant states, "as he shall, will, and uprightly behave himself in the exercise of the said office." And she gave him, "further full power and authority to call together and as-

semble all freeholders and farmers and all other inhabitants in the Baronies of what profession, nation, degree or condition..... to charge and command to do what shall be for the defence of the two baronies, the public wealth of the inhabitants, or punishments of malefactors”.

Sir Turlogh is, “to prosecute, invade, chase away, banish, with-stand, punish, correct by all manner of ways and means, all malefactors, their servants, followers, adherents, which are or shall be malefactors, rebels, vaccabonds, (sic) rimnors, Irish harpers, idellmen and women, and all such unprofitable members whatso-ever etc. All to assist.”

Three years later in 1588, we find Sir Turlogh O'Brien exercising his duties as Seneshal of the County of Clare with all the sting that the words of his grant just recited warranted if the case justified.

Philip of Spain's Armada was partially wrecked off the coast of Clare that year. Having being chased up the English Channel and round Scotland, some of the Spanish fleet came upon this dangerous and rocky coast, and the Irish plundered them, and Boetius Clancy the High Sheriff of the County with Sir Turlogh's assistance, in that official capacity as appointee of Queen Elizabeth, took a hand in the slaughter of the crews.

On the 3rd of September, seven ships of the Armada came in to the Shannon and anchored at Carrigaholt. We have described the Castle of Carrigaholt over-looking the Shannon, which a few years later became the property and estate of Sir Daniel O'Brien, the 1st. Viscount Clare, brother of Donough 4th Earl of Thomond. Two of these were of two thousand tons burden each, two others of four hundred tons, and the remainder of smaller size. Nicholas Cahane, the coroner of Thomond, went on board, but he could get little information from the strangers further than that they were perishing from want of water. Eager to get it they despatched a boat to Kilrush with offers to exchange a cask of wine for every cask of water they might take away.

The towns people did not dare to supply their wants, for the Sheriff of the County, Boetius Clancy, had received positive orders from Sir Richard Bingham, to refuse supplies of every kind, and he was to put to death all Spaniards, who might come on shore. In despair at this reception, they put to sea again, to brave their fate on the stormy ocean of the Atlantic.

On the next day, a vessel was seen at anchor in a wild spot, a mile to the West of the Castle of Liscannor. The patron and purser, whose name was Pedro Baptista of Naples, landed in the expectation of procuring water. The purser was arrested, and gave the name of his ship as "Sumija". He stated that the crew were perishing for want of water, and that the master and four of the men had already died of thirst. Other vessels were observed from the shore, and on the 10th of September one of them drifted into a bay near Doonbeg, and became a total wreck. Three hundred of the crew were drowned, and about sixty men who had landed were slaughtered by the natives or executed by order of Sir Turlogh O'Brien, of Tromroe. Another ship attempted to sail between Mutton Island and the shore, but she took the ground and went to pieces. A thousand men belonging to her were said to have perished. From the surrounding country, the population came down for plunder, and it was with difficulty that Cahane could find a boy willing to take a message to the Mayor of Limerick. It is said that such of the unhappy foreigners as escaped drowning were executed by Boetius Clancy, the high Sheriff of the County, assisted by Sir Turlogh O'Brien, Capt. Mordaunt, and Mr. Morton.

From the captain's cabin of the flagship of the Spanish Armada Boetius Clancy took possession of a fine six-legged Spanish mahogany oblong massive table, inlaid with ivory, which he presented to his brother-in-law Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle, some 20 miles further up the coast. It was this Conor whose daughter Honora married Sir Turlogh's son, Donough of Duagh, and whose son Sir Donough O'Brien migrated his residence from the Castle about 1680 to live further inside the County of Clare at Dromoland. Sir Donough O'Brien was created a baronet in 1686 and the Lemeneagh branch of the family have lived there for about 250 years. This line is now the senior extant line of the O'Briens, and we shall have much to say of it in a subsequent chapter. They are the descendants of Turlogh Don's younger son, Murrough the Tanist.

This famous table (96" x 35" x 35½" high) is still preserved at Dromoland, and is in wonderful condition. It was brought from Lemeneagh Castle where Conor O'Brien was living at the time he received it from his brother-in-law and has rested for over 250 years at Dromoland. A special feature of the table is the fact that the four corner legs are spanish lions, each holding a shield or banner in front of him, while the two legs in the centre are in the one case, a

sailor and the other a carved figure of Latona holding Castor in one hand and Pollux in the other. All figures are heavily carved, the top of the table is of timber 2 inches thick with a highly polished surface. The frieze below the top and all round is finely inlaid with ivory in ornamental and delicate design.

There are other relics from the Spanish Armada consisting of gold and silver ornaments which were to be seen some years ago at Arran View House, in Corcomroe, the residence of Mr. Robert Johnson J.P.; Mrs. Johnson, was descended on the female side from the O'Flaherties of The Isles of Arran, in whose family these objects of interest had been carefully preserved.

Sir Turlough died in 1623 and was, like his father, resident at Duagh Castle; he married Anabella, daughter of Sir Henry Lynch. His eldest son, Donald (Daniel) was, likewise, of Duagh Castle, and was born in 1581, dying in 1627. He married Ellen, daughter of Edward Fitzgerald, Knight of Glynn.

In turn his son, Teige, was of Duagh, now called Doogh, and is also described as of Ennistymon.

His son Donough married Honora O'Brien, daughter of Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle, and sister of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st Bart., who migrated to Dromoland.

Honora O'Brien lived to be 97 years of age, being born in 1641. The portrait of her at Ennistymon House proves this by the artist's signature. The son of Donough and Honora was Christopher, who died in 1743. Christopher's younger son Edward by his second wife, Mary daughter of Sir Randall MacDonnell, Bt., succeeded him, and became a protestant in 1755. Hitherto this branch of the family had remained Catholic, and, as we saw, had utterly refused to be a party to the 1543 surrender to Henry VIII, which had involved the change in religion from Catholic to English protestantism. Edward's son Christopher followed suit in 1768 and became protestant. Edwards grandson Christopher died in 1861 at Miltown Malbay, and was the last male heir of the Ennistymon O'Briens, when the line became extinct. Edward's brother, James O'Brien of Ennis, had a son, Major Edward James O'Brien, but the latter left no heir, but two daughters Mary, and Katharine. Whose descendents are referred to on page 106.

It will be seen that the Duagh or Ennistymon O'Briens had flourished for three Centuries since their founder Sir Donald O'Brien who died in 1579.

To revert now to Edward O'Brien, the son of Christopher by his second wife, Mary MacDonnell. He was of Ennistymon. He sold Killone Abbey, which is five miles from Ennis, to his sister, Elizabeth's son, Charles MacDonnell in 1764, whose father she had married in 1718. He was of Kilkee. This Charles married in 1760 Catharine 3rd daughter of Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd Bart. of Dromoland. She died in 1818. Her husband, who was born in 1736, died in 1773. He lived at his mansion, now called New Hall, a stone's throw from the Abbey.

Killone Abbey is now a ruin, but is still a sacred burial ground. It is well cared for by the Government, which sees that no further deterioration takes place. It is well worth a visit; a long winding road, rising and falling, through verdant beechwoods, runs high up on a sloping hill, and descends to the lake of Killone, now called New Hall Lake. This road leaves the high-road a mile back, and the Abbey is suddenly come upon, nestling on emerald green grass fields, which border the lake. Its grey limestone structure, close to the water renders the place one of the most pleasing and beautiful spots imaginable.

In it will be found tombs to the Darcys ; the Englands ; The O'Keefes, The MacDonnells, and others of families, who in the past have left their mark in the County of Clare.

The MacDonnells had continuously resided at New Hall for near on two Centuries, retaining their Kilkee Estates, until about fifteen years ago, when Mr. William MacDonnell gave up the estate and went to live in Scotland. The Abbey was founded about the year AD. 1190 by Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, for nuns of the rule of St. Augustine, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist.

Slaney, the daughter of Donough Cairbeach O'Brien King of Thomond, was Abbess of this nunnery, and died in 1260. Adjacent to the Abbey is a Holy well, greatly resorted to by persons making their devotions on the Eve of the Festival of St. John.

By an inquisition taken on 15 May 1603, it was found that on 1st July in the 35th year of the reign of King Henry VIII, that monarch granted to Murrough 1st. Earl of Thomond, this Abbey and sundry other lands with all the tithes of Killone and Kilnekelly. In the College list of Castles, that of Killone is set down, as belonging, in 1580, to Murrough, 4th Baron Inchiquin, who was the great grandson of the 1st Earl of Thomond, known as, Murrough O'Brien, The Tanist.

The parish of Killone is a small one, situated in the Barony of Islands, and due south of Drumcliffe. The Abbey's dimensions are given as 28 feet by 88 feet. There is a fine enriched diagonal moulding over the East window, and a mullioned window in the north wall. There is a fragment of an ornamental font. A transept is thrown out on the South side of the main building ; and a large building from this runs parallel to the main structure and is probably the domicile.

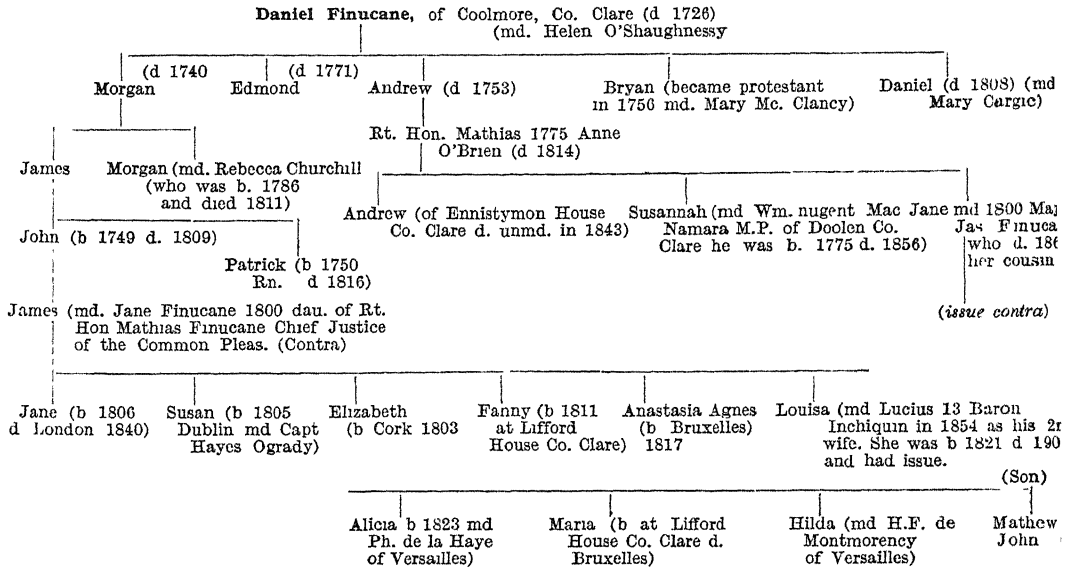
The external face of the north side of the wall is of much greater antiquity than the rest, and has survived. It gives the effect of beauty and strength.

The buildings are generally well-preserved. There is a Holy Well, as mentioned, used as a place of pilgrimage. The most important tomb belongs to the MacDonnells. Theirs runs under the Chancel, all across, and is arched over. The flooring consists of monumental slabs, neatly arranged. Outside the wall, is an enclosure of the Stacpooles of Edenvale. There are, also, tombs of Joseph Lucas, 1763; John Duxon; and others, including the Englands', whose present representative is Mr. A. Bradfield England, B.L., a barrister in Dublin, whose sister married the late Marquess of McSwiney. Her husband died recently.

Upon the death of Edward O'Brien, his brother James O'Brien of Ennis, M.P., who had descendants, did not succeed to the Ennistymon estates. These passed to Edward's granddaughter Anne O'Brien, her father Christopher having died in Edward's lifetime. This Anne, married in 1775 Mathias Finucane, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, whose family came from Clare County. He made a fortune at the Irish Bar, and retired to live with his wife at Ennistymon. He purchased considerable lands of his own, and died in 1814, leaving a son Andrew, who died unmarried in 1843, when the Judge's eldest daughter, Susanna, succeeded to the Ennistymon estates. She married William Nugent MacNamara of Doolen, County Clare, M.P. for the County. He was born in 1775, and died in 1856. The late owner, Francis MacNamara who was born in 1884, was his great grandson and the owner of the Doolen estates by inheritance. He inherited the Ennistymon estates from his great grandmother, Susanna, the judge's daughter.

These marriage connections sufficiently explain the presence in Ennistymon House of the many O'Brien and Finucane pictures, of which a list is given further down, pictures of Edward O'Brien,

**FINUCANE PEDIGREE**  
**COMPILED FROM INFORMATION**  
**GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES**



of Christopher his son, of Anne his granddaughter, and of The Judge and his son Andrew. There are pictures of Honora, daughter of Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh who married Donough O'Brien of Duagh, who was first of the family to live at Ennistymon. Honora was a sister of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart. of Dromoland. There is a portrait of the 3rd Viscount Clare.

The Chief Justice of The Common Pleas, Mathias Finucane had a second daughter called Jane, who married her cousin Major James Finucane, who died in 1860, and upon whom the Judge had made a settlement on marriage. Of this union no less than nine daughters were born, one of whom was Louisa, who married Lucius O'Brien, 13th Baron Inchiquin of Dromoland Castle, who succeeded to the Barony on the death in 1855 of his kinsman, James O'Brien, 3rd Marquis of Thomond. Louisa was Lucius' second wife. She was born in 1821, and survived her husband 31 years, dying in 1904. Some interesting Finucane papers came to light, when her eldest and surviving son, the Honorable Lucius Murrough O'Brien died in 1943.

There being no male heir alive of James and Jane Finucane, a partition between the nine daughters of the lands was concluded after some acrimony and difficulty with the five lawyers engaged in the case. At least four of the daughters were married and their respective husbands had to be got to agree to an equitable distribution of their several wives' portions. This was difficult as the sisters were not too easy to deal with. Apparently negotiations were protracted and the firms of lawyers presented their Bills of Cost to their clients which acted as a bombshell, a settlement not already being in sight. The Bills amounted to between £ 2,000 to £ 3,000. Doubtless, in the circumstances, the fees were well earned, but now agreement seemed further off than ever, because the husbands differed as to what was reasonable for the costs. The lawyers took it to court, but in the babel of tongues a settlement was eventually reached out of court.

The partition deed was of 1851, and the estate having been finally disposed of, a number of documents of title, which one may suppose were no longer of use, remained in possession of Louisa Lady Inchiquin, and were disposed of at her son's death, the said Lucius Murrough O'Brien, in 1943 by his executors. There were deeds of the time of Charles II with the King's seal, and, such as they were, have been put at the disposal of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, for filing in the public records. The estate was principally situated in Clare, near Ennistymon, with some lands in Limerick.

Louisa Lady Inchiquin retained her portion, or some part of it, years after as is proved by the fact that the rentals collected by her agent were regularly sent by the agent to her husband Lord Inchiquin, the married women's Property Act not then having come into force whereby the wife's income from her estate became her "separate" estate. Lady Inchiquin's father, Major James Finucane, was shown by the papers to have served in Australia as Secretary of the local Governor, he served many years in the army, and in continental armies. While so engaged, we find amongst the papers a special permit, signed by the Paris authorities, permitting his wife Jane, to leave the city and to proceed thence to Hamburg with her four young children in 1815, the year of the Battle of Waterloo. Jane Finucane seems to have met her husband again in Bruxelles, but exactly when they returned to Ireland is not stated. A daughter was born in Bruxelles. She may have returned with all her seven children to look after. However, the youngest girl was born about 1823, and the eldest in 1803.

The second daughter, Susan, married Captain Hayes O'Grady; Louisa, born in 1821, the sixth daughter, married Lord Inchiquin in 1854; Alicia, born in 1823 married Philip E. de la Haye; and Hilda married H.F. de Montmorency, both husbands being described in papers as of Versailles.

There are members of the Finucane family still living near Ennistymon at Moy, a small village near the coast some seven miles further south of the town. And members of the family are still buried in the graveyard at Ennistymon.

There are there two large lime stone tombs side by side, one seems to have belonged to one branch, and the other to another branch of the family. On one is cut : "John Finucane ob. 11 May 1809 aged 60. His brother lieutenant Patrick Finucane R.N. died 18 October 1816 aged 36." Another slab commemorates a young woman only recently interred here from Moy. On the other side of the tomb is carved on the stone :- "In fond memory of Rebecca Churchill Finucane, raised to her memory by her grateful husband Morgan Finucane, died 5 June 1811, aged 25. She was a native of Hampshire". There is cut the family arms on a shield, which appears to be an Eagle with wings outspread.

Major James Finucane was, in 1799, a lieutenant in the 60th Royal Regiment of Foot, in 1802 a lieutenant in the Queen's Gunner Regiment. From 21 August to 9th September 1806 marched to Tangiers, in 1807 was a lieutenant in the New South Wales Corps. In 1809 he was Secretary to the Governor of New South Wales, and in 1811 was Captain in the 102nd Regiment.

Some particulars of Rt. Hon. Sir Mathias Finucane's Will and Codicil may be of interest. He died in 1814, but had in the previous year made a deed of Trust, dated 11 January 1813, making over certain stocks to his son-in-law and cousin Major James Finucane, and James' wife Jane Finucane his daughter and their children. His will is dated the 13th January 1813, two days later ; he added a Codicil on 15th September 1813 ; on the will is endorsed the day of his death "30th January 1814".

In his Will he recites that he has already fully provided for his two daughters, Susanna MacNamara and Jane Finucane upon their marriages with William Nugent MacNamara and James Finucane Esq. He commends a servant to the "protection of his son, Andrew Finucane, to whom he leaves his house and grounds at Lifford in Co. Clare, which he holds from General England and

George Stacpoole. Esq. He leaves him also, his personal and farm effects. He refers to his farm at Carrigevay. He leaves this to his nephew Andrew Kent Finucane. He leaves certain property to his son Andrew and his sons, (Andrew died in 1860 unmarried) then if these fail to his daughters Susanna and Jane equally or the survivor of them as tenants common, and their children if surviving.

By his codicil, upon having bought since he made his Will, "from Edward O'Brien, Esq." the lands of Clonivigue in the Barony of Corcomroe Co. Clare", he leaves said lands as the other lands are directed to be left by his Will, which he confirms.

The Judge had bought lands in 1785, 1788, 1799, and 1804 as appears from four schedules in which they are set out in the Deed of Partition entered into in 1851 whereby the lands, inherited by his daughter Jane's issue by Major James Finucane, were partitioned. The lands sold were purchased by Augustin Butler, Esq., the 9th party to the Deed. The other parties were the Trustees and the surviving daughters of Jane.

The deed refers to one dated 13 July 1695 a demise of what was in 1850 known as "Casey's Park", the parties were Francis Gore and James Casey. Judge Finucane had acquired the interest in his lifetime. He bought the lands of "Casey Park" on 8 April 1769 from Fanny Maria Sexton. In 1799 he had bought lands at Lisheen from the Earl of Egmont. Captain Hayes O'Grady and his wife Susan were parties to the Deed of Partition mentioned and six other surviving daughters of Jane, all grandchildren of the Judge. The other signatory sisters were, Eliza, Anastasia Agnes, Louisa (6 yrs. later to become the wife of the 13th Baron Inchiquin), Fanny Lucinda, Alicia de la Haye (née Finucane) and Hilda de Montmorency (née Finucane). It appears from Louisa's papers that she retained as her share at least in part the Doolick and Knockaninane Estates, since her land agents returns to Lord Inchiquin of the income coming to her therefrom is carefully set out in his returns to her Ladyship between the years 1851 to 1868. What happened subsequently to them we have not ascertained. Her husband died four years later in 1872 and she survived him 32 years, dying in London in 1904 at the age of 83. Her stepson 14th Baron Inchiquin frequently visited her, at her home in Queen's Gate, and always spoke of her as a lady of great charm and good looks to the last.

The earliest reference to this family's connection with the County of Clare is found in a Petition by one Daniel Finucane of



*Murrough O'Brien, 6th Baron and 1st. Earl of Inchiquin created Earl by Charles II in 1654. He lived at Rostellan Castle County Cork. He was known as, Murrough tothaine (Burner). He married Elizabeth daughter of Sir William St. Ledger, kt., P.C. the Lord President of Munster. He was a famous cavalry leader and rose to be lieutenant général in the French army during the Commonwealth. Born in 1614 he died in 1674.*



*Murrough O'Brien, 6th Baron and 1st. Earl of Inchiquin created Earl by Charles II in 1654; picture painted of him as a boy of 10 years of age in 1624 by Dobson. He is wearing a yellow suit with white lace collar of the period.*



*William O'Brien, 2nd Earl of Inchiquin, son of Murrough O'Brien 1st. Earl. He died in 1691. He was governor of Tangier lately become under the British crown the marriage portion of Catherine of Braganza on her marriage to Charles II. Later he became Governor General of Jamaica.*

*Painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller.*



*William O'Brien, 3rd Earl of Inchiquin P.C. to Queen Anne and George I. Son of the 2nd Earl. Born in 1666 and died at Rostellan Castle County Cork the family seat of this branch of the family, in 1719.*

*Painted by Jervais.*

Garruragh, Gent. who states that in 1669 Col. Daniel O'Brien made a lease of Ayleroe in the Parish of Kilfddane, containing by Stafford's Survey, 88 acres of profitable land, to Bryan Finucane of Ayleroe for the lives of the said Bryan and his wife Mary Brett, and his brother Daniel Finucane, the yearly rent being £ 7. The lease contained the usual building and planting covenants. The Petitioner states that his house was burned by the English fleet. Bryan dying in 1688, petitioner succeeded as his heir, and paid his rent regularly to Alderman York, on account of his mortgage of £. 1.000, and after his death to his son, William York, Esq., deceased, and then to George Stammers Esq., and Jane his wife, daughter of Alderman York.

The Finucane family provided another distinguished lawyer, who may have been the uncle of Sir Mathias Finucane, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, whose name was Bryan, and is shown in the pedigree here, as having had four brothers and to have married Mary McClancy.

The exact relationship must be conjecture, but it is certain that a Bryan who died in 1785 and had been Chief Justice of Nova Scotia (1778-1785) was born in the County Clare, and had been called to the bar in Dublin. The Encyclopedia of Canada Vol. 2 p. 338 refers to Bryan Finucane in these terms :- Bryan Finucane Chief Justice of Nova Scotia from 1778-85 died there in 1785. He was born in Co. Clare, Ireland, and was called to the bar in Dublin. In 1778 he was appointed Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, and a member of the Council. He died at Halifax on August 3, 1785, and was buried in a private vault in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, (see R.V. Harris' Catalogue of Portraits of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia (Halifax, no date).

A further reference to this Bryan Finucane is contained in vol. II p. 39 of "History of Nova Scotia", by Beamish Murdock, Q.C., in 3 vols.

It reads :- "On the 10th April 1778 Bryan Finucane, Esq., was appointed Chief Justice of Nova Scotia, and arriving in Halifax on the 1st of May, was sworn as a member of the Council under the King's Mandamus, to take his seat next to the Lieutenant Governors".

The Gazette of the 4th of May 1785 says :-

"An upright Judge, an honest lawyer, a warm friend, and an accomplished gentleman".

The late owner of Ennistymon House, Mr. Francis MacNamara, not long ago related to the author that he felt unable, with the

information he had, to confirm the relationship of Chief Justice Bryan with that of Mathias of the Common Pleas in Ireland. Mr. MacNamara had a few years previously received a letter from the Bar Council of Nova Scotia asking him, if he could confirm that he was Sir Mathias Finucane's brother, which they had believed.

The Council had been taking a record of the Chief Justices, of Nova Scotia and desired further particulars of Chief Justice Bryan Finucane. So there the matter has to rest, but may be resolved at a future date.

We have seen that Louisa Finucane, one of Chief Justice Mathias Finucane's granddaughters had married Sir Lucius O'Brien 5th Baronet of Dromoland Castle, County Clare, as his second wife.

The year following their marriage, viz., in 1855, his kinsman the 3rd Marquis of Thomond Admiral James O'Brien died, and Sir Lucius succeeded to the Barony of Inchiquin. Amongst the Finucane papers was one written on the 12 July of that year to Sir Lucius from Capt. O'Grady one of his brothers-in-law.

It reads :

Erinagh House, Castle Connell.

12 July 1855

To, Lord Inchiquin, Dromoland Castle, County Clare.

My dear Lord Inchiquin,

I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your elevation to the peerage, not that I think anything can sound better than the old Dromoland Title ! Hoping that you and dear Louisa may long enjoy your promotion.

I remain, My Dear Inchiquin,

Yours very truly,

O'Grady.

Captain O'Grady's wish was granted, in that Lord Inchiquin survived 17 years, and Louisa Lady Inchiquin 50 years following the letter.

It was not till 1861, that Lord Inchiquin's claim to the peerage came before the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords, and it was agreed to.

Elsewhere, we have pointed out that he had to prove births, deaths and marriages in ascent from the 3rd Marquis to Murrough The Tanist, the first Lord Inchiquin, to whom the title had been granted by Henry VIII in 1543, just three hundred years previously;

and similarly the descent from this common ancestor to himself, another period of 300 years in which the same proof had to be offered.

### CATALOGUE OF THE PICTURES LATELY AT ENNISTYMON HOUSE, COUNTY CLARE.

1.—Mary MacMahon (Maira Ruhr) widow of Colonel Neylan, and wife of Conor O'Brien, of Lemeneagh Castle, who died in 1651, the mother of Honora O'Brien below, wife of Donough O'Brien of Doogh. Painted about 1650. She married Cornet Cooper of Ireton's army, as her third husband.

2.—Donough O'Brien, of Doogh, circa. 1685, in round frame wearing a long wig and cloak.

3.—Honora O'Brien, wife of Donough O'Brien of Doogh, sister of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st Bart. of Lemeneagh and Dromoland. Painted AD. 1738, *aetatis suae* 97.

4.—Christopher O'Brien, of Ennistymon and Killone Abbey, County Clare, son of Donough O'Brien of Doogh, circa 1705/10.

5.—Edward O'Brien, son of Christopher O'Brien, by Mary, daughter of Sir Randal MacDonnell, Bart.

6.—Mary Casey, 3rd wife of Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon.

7.—Christopher O'Brien son of Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon, and of Susan O'Brien his first wife, the daughter of Henry O'Brien of Stonehall, County Clare, the grandson of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart.

Aged about 12 years in the picture, in a green suit and white collar, with a dog full length.

8.—Anne O'Brien, sister of Christopher, and daughter of Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon, who married Rt. Hon. Mathias Finucane in 1775, Chief justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland. Small round canvas.

9.—Sir Mathias Finucane, husband of Anne O'Brien ; in the scarlet robes of Justice of the Common Pleas, by Hugh Douglas Hamilton artist born 1739 died 1808. Half length.

10.—Sir Mathias Finucane (another) as a younger man, in a dark dress, painted by Nathaniel Hone - Half length.

11.—Andrew Finucane, in 11th Hussars uniform, as a young officer, son of Sir Mathias Finucane - signed "James Northcote 1811."

12.—Susan Finucane, sister of Andrew Finucane, and daughter of Sir Mathias Finucane, wife of William Nugent MacNamara M.P. for County Clare. Painted by Hugh Douglas Hamilton (b. 1739 d. 1808.)

13.—Francis Macnamara, of Doolen and Ennistymon House, County Clare, son of Susan Macnamara (née Finucane). He succeeded through his mother, and grandmother, who was Anne O'Brien (above), to the Ennistymon Property. Died 1873.

14.—Earl and Countess of Antrim (MacDonnell) two half-lengths.

15.—Two children, of the family MacDonnells (Earls of Antrim).

16.—Sir Donough O'Brien 1st Bart. of Lemeneagh, and Dromoland (born 1642 died 1717); son of Conor O'Brien and Mary MacMahon (Moira Ruhr). Same picture as at Dromoland Castle.

17.—Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Bart. of Dromoland, County Clare, same picture as at Dromoland Castle, born 1705 died 1765.

18.—Catharine Keightley, daughter of Thomas Keightley, Lord Treasurer of Ireland, and of Lady Frances Keightley (née Hyde, daughter of the 1st Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chancellor), married Lucius O'Brien, eldest son of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart. She was a niece of Lady Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, mother of Queens Mary and Anne.

19.—Daniel O'Brien, 3rd Viscount Clare, whose estates and title, were confiscated in 1691, after his death in 1690. He was a first cousin of Donough O'Brien of Doogh. He was the son of Conor 2nd Vist. Clare by his marriage to his third cousin Honor O'Brien, daughter of Sir Turlogh O'Brien, Kt. great grandfather of Donough O'Brien of Doogh. Conor had died in 1670.

20.—Barnabas, 6th Earl of Thomond, of Bunratty Castle, Co. Clare, and Gt. Billing Castle, Co. Northampton. A copy of the picture which is at Dromoland Castle. Another version of the picture, which is by Cornelius Johnson (Janssens), is at Petworth House, in Sussex, the seat of Lord Leconfield. In that catalogue it is described, "Burt  $\frac{3}{4}$  right, black quilted doublet, slashed sleeves, large falling white collar, red ribbon of the Bath, pointed beard, long hair; signed: 'C.J. Fecit, 1634.' The Earl died in 1637. Lord Lieutenant of County Clare, sided with both Parliament and King ( $30\frac{1}{2} \times 24 \frac{1}{2}$  ins.)"

21.—Henry 7th Earl of Thomond, son of Barnabas 6th Earl, born 1618 died 1691. Copy of the picture which is at Dromoland

Castle. There is another version of this picture at Petworth House, Sussex, the seat of Lord Leconfield.

22.—Henry 8th, and last, Earl of Thomond, grandson of the 7th Earl of Thomond. He died in 1741, when the Earldom passed to his kinsman in France the 6th Viscount Clare, where he was accepted as such; but the English Government did not recognize the title other than extinct as the Viscount's ancestor, Daniel O'Brien 3rd Viscount whose portrait is No. 19 in this catalogue, had suffered forfeiture of his estates and been attainted in 1691.

23.—Justin Viscount Mountcashel, brother of the 2nd Earl of Clancarty, who was MacCarty More, a general officer in the service of James II.

24.—Patrick Sarsfield, Earl of Lucan, Viscount Tully and Baron Rosbury. One of James II's Commanders. He forced William the fourth to raise the siege of Limerick by his defence of the City.

25.—Kate Sarsfield.

Earlier in this chapter Liscannor Castle, a mile from Duagh Castle, where the Ennistymon river flows into the bay of Liscannor, was mentioned. Near the Castle there is an old Church by the shore. It was founded by St. MacCreiche, the patron of this parish (Killmaccreahy) about AD. 540, who founded several Churches in Thomond. On a stone inserted in the wall of the building is the following inscription. :—

“Here resteth Nick, whose fame no age can blot,  
“The Chief MacDonagh, in old Heber's lot,  
“Who, while on earth revived the ancient fame  
“Of his own line, and that of all the name,  
“His fixt religion was his action's guide,  
“And as he lived beloved, lamented died.”

Erected in the year of our Lord God 1745. On the beach nearby the natives show a spot, which they say was St. Creiche's bed. A few hundred yards distant is his well.

These epitaphs are not infrequently found in the County of Clare. Here is another from the old Church, which has almost disappeared, at Derryowen in the County. This one is addressed to the passer by, who, 'comically' is described as, a “Passenger”.

"Stand, passenger gaze and see,  
"Such as I am so shalt thou be ;  
"Who died to live, so live to die.  
"Depart, muse on eternity".

To Robert Smith, departed this life  
17 Feb. 1676.

Here is another, on similar lines :-

"As you are now, so I was once,  
"As I am now, so you must be,  
"Therefore, prepare to follow me."

The author believes the letter originated in Ireland, but is not aware of its origin.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE BARONS AND EARLS OF INCHIUIN AND THE MARQUISES OF THOMOND.

We must now revert to Murrough O'Brien the Tanist, created 1st. Earl of Thomond, and first Baron Inchiquin. It will be remembered that he was the youngest son of Turlogh Don, and died in 1551, having in 1543 surrendered his kingdom of Thomond to Henry VIII. He was sworn of the Privy Council. Murrough had three sons, the eldest Dermot succeeded him as 2nd. Baron Inchiquin and was the progenitor of the Earls of Inchiquin, later Marquises of Thomond. The third son, who is called of Lemeneagh Castle, was Donough. He was the progenitor of the Dromoland O'Briens, later becoming Barons of Inchiquin upon his brother Dermot's line becoming extinct in 1855, when Sir Lucius O'Brien 5th Baronet took up his kinsman title.

Their mother was Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Fitzgerald Kt. of The Valley. The second son, Teige, was of Smithstown, who married More, daughter of Sir Daniel O'Brien of Ennistymon, and died at the Castle of Inchiquin in 1578. He had one son and three daughters; his son Turlogh, born about 1569 died an infant in 1584, when his line became extinct. Of his three daughters; Slaney, born in 1575, married Teige 2nd. son of Conor, 3rd. Earl of Thomond, her second cousin; Any, born 1578, married Donough O'Brien of Claverton, who died in 1611.

He was the son of Mahon O'Brien; and Honora, born in 1570, who married Richard Wingfield, whence are descended the Viscounts Powerscourt, thus :- his son, Sir Edward Wingfield of Carnew, County Wicklow, who died in 1638, whose son was Richard Wingfield of Powerscourt; married Elizabeth daughter of Lord Folliott in 1640, and died in 1644, whose son was Folliott Wingfield, created by revival Viscount Powerscourt, and married Lady Elizabeth Boyle, and died in 1717.

Teige's daughter Honora Wingfield had, beside a son, a daughter, named after her mother, and she married her second cousin, Donough MacConnor, who was knighted by Charles I, and was grandnephew of Teige, being a grandson of Donough O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle. Later it is intended to deal with the personnel of this Donough's descent, which, upon the death of the last male representative of the Ennistymon O'Briens, Christopher O'Brien, in 1861, became the senior extant line of the O'Briens. But it is necessary, first to follow down the line of the Earls of Inchiquin, later Marquises of Thomond, as from the death of Murrough The Tanist in 1551 to 1855, when the last of this line died out in the person of James 3rd. Marquis, a period of three hundred years. Something will be said of the remarkable genealogical record of a succession to a title granted 300 years previously to one line of kinsman, inherited by another after that lapse of time. Such cases must be rare, but this case is probably unique, since the successor in the Lemeneagh-Dromoland line, in the person of Lucius 5th. Baronet of Dromoland, was the tenth of eldest sons to succeed their fathers, in an unbroken line in 300 years.

This remarkable line of eldest sons in succession has continued to our time, the present and 16th. Baron Inchiquin, being the 13th. eldest son to succeed in this manner, from Murrough The Tanist, 57th. King of Munster and Thomond, who we have seen made submission in 1543 to King Henry VIII, accepting the Earldom of Thomond for life, and Baron Inchiquin for the heirs male of his body.

The seal of accuracy of this genealogical phenomenon was set by the proceedings in 1860 brought by the said Sir Lucius O'Brien before the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords. His claim to the succession to the Barony as 13th. Baron, was conceded there. A copy of the case for counsel, and a summary of the evidence tendered at the trial are at Dromoland Castle, County Clare, Lord Inchiquin's seat. The births, deaths and marriages in the ten generations of descent from the creation of the Barony had to be proved, after births deaths and marriages had first been proved upwards from 1855 to 1543 to the common ancestor.

Dermod O'Brien, 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin, married his first cousin once removed, Margaret O'Brien, the daughter of Donough 2nd. Earl of Thomond. He died in 1552 and she outlived him sixteen years till 1568. He was buried at Ennis Abbey in the town of Ennis, in County Clare.

They had a son Murrough, 3rd. Baron Inchiquin, born in 1550, known as MacDermod O'Brien, who married Anabella, daughter of Christopher Nugent 9th. Lord Delvin, who was present in Sir John Perrot's parliament in 1585. He died in 1573, aged only twenty three years, leaving a son, Murrough, 4th. Baron Inchiquin, who was living in his castle at O'Brien's-Bridge in 1580. It has now entirely disappeared. He had married Margaret, daughter of Sir Thomas Cusack Lord Chancellor and Lord Justice of Ireland, and died in 1597, being buried in the Abbey of Donegal. He had succeeded to the title at eleven years of age, leaving issue by her, Dermod, who succeeded him as 5th. Baron Inchiquin. He also had a son Teige and daughter, Slaney, who married William Dongan, and Honora, May, Margaret, and More. Dermod was only two years and nine months old, when he succeeded his father, and was granted in Ward on 16th. January 1609 to Annabella his godmother.

He married, Ellen, eldest daughter of Sir Edmond Fitz-Edmond FitzGerald, of Cloyne, Esq., and died 29 December 1624. He had issue, four sons and three daughters, Murrough created Earl of Inchiquin; Henry O'Brien, who commanded a company in the Wars of 1641, and afterwards became Lieutenant Colonel in King Charles I's army in England, and died without issue; Christopher, who died an infant; Lieutenant Colonel Christopher O'Brien, who being engaged against the King in the 1641 Rebellion, was a very active commander in the County Clare.

He besieged and took the Castle of Ballyally in 1641, and by the supreme council of Kilkenny was created, "Baron Inchiquin", by which title he was commonly called in the County of Clare. In spite of this, he was restored to his estate by Charles II's Declaration, as one who had in a special manner merited his Majesty's grace and favor. He died about 1665 without issue by his wife, Honora, daughter of Turlogh MacMahon of Clonderalagh before the act of explanations passed and his estate devolved upon his brother and next heir Lord Inchiquin. His wife had been first married to Boetius Clancy; the three sisters were, Honora, who married Antony Stoughton of Rattoo, County Kerry, who had two sons and four daughters; May, who married Dr. Michael Boyle, Archbishop of Armagh; and Anne, who died young.

Dermod, the 2nd. Baron Inchiquin had been assigned by his father, the castle and lands of Inchiquin, with those of Derryowen,

O'Briens-Bridge, The Monastery of Killany, the rectories of Kilfed-dan and Mourghy.

To his brother, Teige of Smithstown, his father had assigned Smithstown Castle with other lands.

To Donough (of Lemeneagh), his father had assigned the castles and lands of Lemeneagh, Dromolyn (Dromoland) Ballyconilly, the Abbey of Corcomroe, and others in County Clare. Murrough the eldest son of Dermot 4th. Baron Inchiquin, was born in 1614. He succeeded his father in 1642 as 5th Baron Inchiquin, but in 1654 was raised to the rank of an Earl of that name by Charles II. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir William St. Ledger, Kt. P.C., Lord President of Munster in 1627. She survived her husband eleven years, dying in 1685. He died at the age of 60 years, the first forty years of his life was spent as a soldier, described as a noblemen of great spirit and performer of many brave actions for the service of his country at the time of the rebellion and after. He appears at times in England, France, Spain and Ireland in high command, and wherever there was fighting to be done. He seems to have been a born leader of men, and always a victor.

Lady Burghclere, in her "Life of Ormonde", vol. 1 pp. 182/3 says :-

"For sheer ability and courage Inchiquin had few rivals. He "possessed the innate quickness of eye and brain of the true cavalry "leader, and was intrepid to the verge of temerity. Even in that cruel "age, he was, however, noted for his indifference to human life and "suffering, and these faults were not redeemed by steadfast devotion "to any cause or principle... he died a penitent of the Church of Rome".

It is of interest, that while he was a commander in the Commonwealth Armies he bore nine Cornettes for Ireland. The Commanders bore Cornets or flags and pennons. Amongst the three hundred odd Commanders in the army, were seven peers. He turned Royalist and was created Earl in 1654, and Baron of Burren in the County, of Clare.

He succeeded to the Barony while still a minor, and on 19th July 1628, was a ward to Patrick Fitzmaurice Esq., for the fine of £. 266 Irish, but had a special livery of his lands on 23 June 1636. He took early to arms, and went into Italy, then the seat of war where, he learned the science of war which afterwards led to a striking career. In Italy he served in the Spanish Army, till his return to Ireland in 1639.

In this year, King Charles I wrote to the lord Deputy Wentworth as follows :-

“Amongst others of our well affected subjects to our service  
“of our Kingdom of Ireland, we have understood by you the readi-  
“ness which has been shewn by Murrough, Baron of Inchiquin, to  
“advance and further the plantation within our County of Clare,  
“by submitting himself to our title there, in which respect we are  
“pleased to extend our grace and favor to him, that he may not in  
“course of plantation, have the fourth part of his lands in that County  
“taken from him as from other the natives there, but to be suffered  
“still to hold them, upon such increase of rent as shall be set upon  
“these quarters of land in that County, which are left to the several  
“possessors, after our fourth part shall be taken forth from them”.

He took his seat in Parliament in the same year, and in 1640 was constated Vice President of Munster, under his father-in-law. He now distinguished himself in the cause of the King in Ireland, and upon the death of Sir William St. Ledger, was granted the entire military command of Munster, joining with the Earl of Barrymore to manage the Civil government. On the latter's death this civil command became solely invested in him, and he was made a Privy Councillor. On the 29 June 1642, he fought the Irish at Newtown in County Cork, and on 2nd Sept. with only 1,850 foot and 400 horse he met the Irish army, consisting of 7,000 foot and 500 horse near Liscarrol in the same county under the command of Lord Mountgarrett. He completely defeated him, killing 800 men and taking ordinance, colours, muskets and waggons, and barrels of powder. He refrained from following up this success, but entered Limerick luckily with little opposition which he expected, because he was short of supplies, ammunition and money, and of general support from England by the English parliament.

After repeated attempts to press the urgency of his military needs, he turned to the Parliamentary party, closing his connection with the Confederate Irish Army in 1642, declaring openly in 1644 his resolution, and the reason of his change.

He at once received promises of large supplies to prosecute the war in Ireland. These were duly received and several years passed during which time Murrough was constantly engaged in military activities on behalf of the Parliamentarians.

His reputation for command increased, and the Marquess of Ormonde left him in 1648 in the full command of the whole English army in Munster. This army was considered to be a better body of

soldiers than the Parliament had in any other part of the Kingdom, and in a letter from Charles II from the Hague Inchiquin was appointed President of Munster. He continued his military activities against the Irish through 1649, but needed reinforcements that did not arrive in time for his purposes, and part of his army being seduced by Cromwell's spies, he found his life in danger. He accordingly embarked with Ormonde on 6th. December 1650, and landed in Barre-Bretagne in France. In 1652 Cromwell's Parliament exempted him from pardon and the advantages, which the Act of Settlement of affairs in Ireland would have brought to him.

Thence, he went to Italy, and returning to France, the French King made him lieutenant general of the army. When he had conquered Catalonia, he became its Viceroy, and by patent, bearing date at Cologne 21 Oct. 1654, King Charles II advanced him to an Earldom in the Kingdom of Ireland, with remainder to his issue male, by the title of Earl of Inchiquin.

After this Inchiquin served in Spain, he and his eldest son, and all his family, were taken prisoners by an Algerian Corsair.

Having ransomed himself and his family, he returned into France, where he lived to see the restoration of King Charles II with whom he returned to England. He was restored to his estate by a British Act of Parliament which was so confirmed by the Act of Settlement. By the Act of Explanation, he was ordered to be paid £8,000 out of the Treasury, as a, "mark of his Majesty's favorable and gracious consideration" for his losses and sufferings. By his will, dated 11 September 1673, and proved on the 14 November 1674, he directed that his body should be buried in St. Mary's Cathedral of Limerick in the manner and form his eldest son William Lord O'Brien should think fit.

He also, requested that a monument be built over his grave, and inter alia, £ 20 given to the Franciscan Friars of Ennis in County Clare, and money for the performance of the usual duties of the Roman Catholic Clergy.

Since his return from France, he had made Rostellan Castle, 15 miles from Cork, his home ; and his wife, who died in 1685, while requesting to be buried at Doneraile, left forty shillings a-piece to the poor of that parish, and of Rostellan, and £. 20 to the poor of the four parishes of Cork.

There is no monument to Inchiquin now in the Cathedral in Limerick, but there is a flag stone, which is said to mark the spot of

his burial inside the Cathedral. Upon this are cut two strokes, which the author has seen and which he has little doubt are intended to stand for "Inchiquin 1st" (Regal Style he being 1st. of the Earls of that name). Elsewhere, we have noticed that Henry 7th. Earl of Thomond, had an inscription, reading "Henry II Earl of Thomond" (Regal Style), while he was 7th. Earl of Thomond in fact, put on a monument in the cathedral commemorating repairs he had done to his grandfather's tomb there.

The 7th. Earl of Thomond died in 1691 and Lord Inchiquin in 1674, each within a few years of one another, and the system of marking would, therefore, have been nearly contemporaneous.

There was a legend that the tomb of Murrough 1st. Earl of Inchiquin was rifled after his death, and his remains scattered by the Catholics, in revenge for his persecutions and burnings at Cashel, for which he was responsible. This may account for the absence of a monument, which by his will he desired to be erected to his memory in the Cathedral, and at the same time accounts for the modest marking on the flag stone, which marks his grave.

Murrough was known as, "Murchadh na atoithean", or, "Murrough of the Conflagrations". In the early period of his career before he became catholic, he had piled up a formidable indictment against himself by the catholics. In August 1644 he had expelled nearly all the catholics from Cork, Youghal and Kinsale, allowing them only to take up so much property as they could carry on their persons. "All the Irish inhabitants", are the words used by him (Clarendon State Papers ii. 171). Two years previously he had proceeded to reconquer from the Irish the districts of Cappoquin and Dromana, and on 12 August he reported to Lenthall, that he had taken many castles, and vast quantities of possessions. He sent troops across the Shannon then, and Bunratty Castle was burned by its garrison though it had taken the Confederate Catholics much pains to win.

He stormed and burned the Abbey of Adare in County Limerick, where four friars were burned, and three taken prisoners in his own words. He continued his burnings on the 12th September the same year, when he committed the crowning act that inspired the native catholic and clergy to hate him. He attacked the Rock of Cashel, the strong position of which had tempted many persons of both sexes to take refuge upon, and take with them their valuables. The story goes, that failing to make a breach with his guns, Inchiquin piled up

turf against the wall of the enclosure and set fire to it. The defenders were overcome by the heat from the conflagration, who were crowded within a narrow space. He carried the Rock by assault, and no quarter was given to anyone. About thirty priests and friars were among the killed. "Ludlow's Memoirs" 1.92 states that "three thousand were slaughtered, the priests being taken from even under the altar". Cromwell landed in Ireland on 18th August 1649, and Inchiquin working with Ormonde offered military opposition to his troops, but their offensive was successfully warded off, and circumstances compelled both to embark for France with forty other officers. After a rough three weeks passage they landed safely at Perros Guirec, in Brittany. When Charles escaped from Worcester he went to Paris, and on 2nd. April 1652, wrote to Inchiquin, that in spite of certain charges that had been levied against him by Sir Lewis Dyre, he held confidence in him.

On 11 May he was made one of the Royal Council, on his appointment Hyde wrote, "that he was glad, for he is, in truth, a gallant "gentleman of good parts and great industry, and a temper fit to struggle with the affairs on all sides that we have to contend with (see "Clarendon Papers III 67)."

Henrietta Maria, Jermyn and Wilmot were against the appointment. In 1653 Inchiquin sought to be appointed Commander in Chief of all the Irish troops in France.

But his appointment was opposed by the Irish Clergy, who told the Nuncio that he was a "murderer of priests, friars and such like".

It is interesting to recall that the exiled King's Council at the time consisted of eleven persons, divided into two parties ; the majority consisted of Ormonde, Rochester, Percy, Inchiquin, Taafe and Hyde, who controlled the whole policy.

Henrietta Maria, Duke of York, Rupert, The Duke of Buckingham and Jermyn were the minority (see Thurloe State Papers ii. 510).

In May 1654 he received his earldom, and in October went to Catalonia. There he became Governor of the districts, which still adhered to France. He frequently visited Paris, and by 1657 he had joined the Church of Rome, but his wife remained a staunch protestant, which led to disputings between them.

The question of the custody of the son, Lord O'Brien, arose ; Henrietta Maria and the Catholic party favouring Inchiquin's claims, and the protestants taking the other side. Lockhart's diplomacy triumphed, and Inchiquin, who had carried the boy away forcibly

from the British Embassy in Paris, was ordered to restore him on pain of being banished from France, and losing all his commissions and allowances. Lord O'Brien was returned to Ireland, where he remained with his father's friends. Inchiquin was incensed by Lockhart's action in Paris, and was ready to join in any attempt that might be made in England. Ormonde began to distrust him, perhaps because he had become a Catholic, and the protestant royalists had little use for him. Cardinal Mazarin connived with his going with Schomberg to help the Portugese, and he started for Lisbon in 1659. It soon became known that he and his son had been captured by an Algerian Corsair. The English Council prevailed on the pasha to release him, but his son was kept as a hostage.

But the House of Commons voted 7,500 dollars for his ransom. After his return to Paris he became high steward of the household of Henrietta Maria.

Further evidence of Inchiquin having turned Catholic is shown by his signing the Declaration of Allegiance to Charles II by Irish Catholic nobility and gentry in 1661.

He was generally in attendance on the Queen mother, either in London or Paris, and in June 1662 he sailed as general-in-chief of the expeditionary force sent by Charles to help the Portugese. He landed at Lisbon with 2,000 foot, and some troops on horse. The Spaniards avoided a battle, and his expedition came to nothing, he returning to Ireland in 1663.

He seems to have retired now from military activities, and lived quietly the last eleven years of his life on his estate at Rostellan, near Cork.

In 1665 Henrietta Maria finally departed to France, after which Inchiquin had no special reason for going to London. Something may be said of Inchiquin's estates, which were very extensive, for he owned 60,000 acres in Clare, and 15,000 in Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. By the Cromwellian Act of Settlement of 1652, he was especially exempted by name from pardon for life or estate. But a private act was passed in 1660, which restored him to all his houses and lands in Ireland, and this was confirmed, by the Act of Settlement of 1662. Out of the Treasury he was given £. 8,000 by way of compensation for his losses and sufferings.

For his arrears, as a general in Munster, before June 1649, he was given 10/- in the pound, and received some few other smaller grants. There are three oil portraits on canvas of him at Dromoland

Castle. One full length, of him as a boy, of some ten years of age in a yellow satin suit, trimmed with lace at the neck and at the knees in the manner of the period of the first part of the 17th. Century. It is by Dobson ; another shows him,  $\frac{3}{4}$  length, in a full suit of armour, with dark hair and small moustache; and a third in ordinary costume, wearing a wig. From these he may be judged to have been a handsome man, the picture of him as a youth is particularly pleasing, wearing the Stuart period costume.

His son William, who was born in 1638, succeeded him as 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin, he was the 7th. Baron of the name. Brought up in London at the house of Sir Philip Perceval, his father's friend, he was companion to his guardian's son, afterwards Sir John Perceval.

On 7th. April 1658 Henry Cromwell, protector in Ireland, informed Thurlow, that Lord O'Brien, as Inchiquin's son was called in his father's lifetime, had come to him in Ireland without a pass or permission. But most of his life was spent with his father in foreign military service, in France or Spain. In 1659 he accompanied his father in his expedition to Lisbon with a French force, which was to help the Portugese against Spain. When off Spain the vessel was captured by an Algerian Corsair, sailing under the Turkish flag, and in the encounter Lord O'Brien lost his eye, both he and his father were carried off to Algiers. An account has been given of what happened after. Early in 1674, the year his father died, he was appointed Captain General of his majesty's forces in Africa ; and Governor and Vice-Admiral of the Royal citadel of Tangier. Tangier had been ceded by the Portugese as part of the marriage portion of Catharine of Briganza, wife of Charles II. He held this post for six years. He was sworn of the Privy Council. As Lord Inchiquin he welcomed the Prince of Orange in 1688 and in the following year, he and his eldest son, afterwards 3rd Earl of Inchiquin, were attainted by the Irish Parliament of King James II., and their estates sequestered. As a result he headed a large body of the protestants of Munster to oppose the progress of the Catholics. Major General McCarthy, however, dispersed his troops and both he and his son fled to England. He was present at the battle of the Boyne accompanying King William III to Dublin.

Later, he spent some time in Cork. After the revolution of 1690, he was appointed Governor of Jamaica, where his administration of affairs was not very satisfactory. When war was declared by England against France cruisers made continual depredations on the sea



*William O'Brien 4th Earl of Inchiquin, son of the 3rd Earl. He was born in 1694 and died in 1777. He was grandmaster of the Freemasons of England, and an original member of the order of the Bath. He was Lord of the Bedchamber to Frederick Prince of Wales. He married Anne, Countess of Orkney in her own right.*

*Painted by William Hogarth.*



*Murrough O'Brien, 1st. Marquis of Thomond, so created in 1800, was 5th Earl of Inchiquin and the son of the Honorable James O'Brien M.P. a brother of the 4th Earl and grandmaster of the Freemasons of Munster. He was one of the original 15 members of the order of Saint Patrick founded in 1783. Born in 1723 he died in 1808. He married Mary Palmer niece and heiress of Sir Joshua Reynolds who was Founder and President of the Royal Academy.*



*William O'Brien, 2nd Marquis of Thomond, 6th Earl of Inchiquin and 11th Baron of that name. He was a nephew of Murrough 1st. Marquis of Thomond, and eldest son of the Honorable Edward O'Brien R.N. He died in 1846.*

*Painted by Thomas Clement Thompson R.H.A.*



*James O'Brien, Admiral 3rd Marquis of Thomond, 7th Earl of Inchiquin, and, 12th Baron of Inchiquin. The last of his branch, he died in 1855, when the Barony, of Inchiquin devolved upon his kinsman Sir Lucius O'Brien 5th Baronet of Dromoland, County Clare, who became the 13th Baron Inchiquin, and was the great grandfather of the present Baron Inchiquin.*

coast plantations. A huge sum of money was raised by Inchiquin for relief of the sufferers, but when subsequently the negroes became troublesome, coming down from the woods and robbing the neighbouring settlements, committing great cruelties, his want of tact showed itself, and the anxieties of the times ruined his health. He suffered continually with fever, and died of the plague at St. Iago de la Vega, sixteen months after his arrival. He was buried in the parish church where a brass plate commemorates him, which has recently been renovated, by the family.

He succeeded an English Duke in the post of Governor, who had had an allowance of £. 5,000 it is said ; Inchiquin had only about half that amount at his disposal. The Government gave him £500 for his voyage out, and he took fifty tons of baggage with him, and seventy five servants of all sorts, a kind of personal body guard. The Governors in those days lived in Spanish Town : Thomas Lord Windsor, Sir Henry Morgan, Sir Nicholas Lawes, Christopher, Duke of Albermarle and the Duke of Portland. Jamaica was discovered by Christopher Columbus in his second voyage to the Western World in 1494. It is said, that, surveying the coast, he was obliged to lay up his ships for a year on the north coast of Jamaica, as they were too decayed and worm eaten to proceed. Spanish Town is about ten miles from Kingston. The Spaniards laid out the streets in chess board fashion, which remains the same to this day, the plan has never been altered. Cromwell's soldiers captured Jamaica in 1655, and Charles II, later, is said to have granted lots in Spanish Town to his subjects for a consideration. The British rule gradually displaced that of the Spaniards, who seemed to be contented to remain on under it. The few remaining Spanish soldiers, some seventy five in all, finally left the island for good at Runaway Bay in 1657.

William 2nd. Earl, married Lady Margaret Boyle, 3rd. daughter of Roger 1st. Earl of Orrery, and had by her three sons ; William, who succeeded his father as 3rd. Earl of Inchiquin ; Henry, who died an infant, and James, born in 1677, and died unmarried on his return from Jamaica in 1693. He had a daughter, Margaret, who, also, died unmarried. He married secondly, Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of George Bridges, Lord Chandos. But by her he had no issue .

The <sup>2nd</sup> ~~third~~ Earl's brothers and sisters were :- Charles, a captain in the Royal Navy, and died unmarried in 1673 ; John, of Newhall, County Clare, who married Honora, the daughter of Considine Gow-

gan, died without issue 10 November 1708 ; Elizabeth, who married Richard Southwell in September 1688, and had a son, Thomas 1st. Lord Southwell, and secondly, John MacNamara, of Cratloe, County Clare ; Honora, who married Theobald, 2nd. Lord Brittas, outlawed in 1691 ; and Mary, who married the Honorable Henry Boyle of Castlemartyr, whose son was Henry, 1st. Earl of Shannon.

There are two portraits of the 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin at Dromoland, one showing a patch over his eye, the other with both eyes normal, the latter painted before the incident with the Algerian Corsair when he lost his eye in an engagement that followed. This portrait was presented to Lord Inchiquin, to be kept at Dromoland Castle. It was presented by members of the family in 1936, all who signed a presentation card to which there are 55 signatories. It was painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller in 1668, when he was still Lord O'Brien.

William 3rd. Earl of Inchiquin, was born in 1666. He became a Privy Councillor to Queen Anne and George I. He married Margaret, daughter of James O'Brien. She died in 1688; and secondly, Mary, daughter of Sir Edward Villiers, who was brother to Edward Earl of Jersey, who died on 17th. April 1753.

The Earl died at Rostellan Castle, County Cork, his home on 24 December 1719, and was buried in the Cathedral Church of Cloyne. There is now no trace of his grave. His son William 4th. Earl was, likewise, buried in the Cathedral Church in 1777, but no stone marks the spot.

Bishop Berkeley's tomb in the Cathedral is well preserved, but the church building has suffered from reconstruction following damage to it from time to time in the past. It is about three miles from Rostellan. The churchyard is much overgrown, and a few years ago required much to be done to get it in order, and to repair the stone monuments in it. There is an Irish round tower close by in a good state of preservation.

The 3rd. Earl was attainted by King James II's parliament, as had his father been, having served in the army under King William III, both in Ireland and Flanders. He was made Governor of the town and fort of Kinsale in 1693 with a fee of 20/- a day, "as a person of whose loyalty and courage the king was well satisfied".

There is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  length portrait, by Sir Godfrey Kneller of him at Dromoland Castle, wearing armour and patting a favorite wolf hound.

His eldest son, William, became 4th. Earl, his second son, Charles, was a lieutenant in the navy, and died unmarried; but his third son,

James became the father of Murrough, 5th. Earl of Inchiquin, who was created in 1800 1st. Marquis of Thomond. The fourth Earl's four sons died in their father's lifetime so the nephew succeeded. The "Marquisate", was a revival of the name "Thomond", which had previously been held by the "Earls" of that name. The Earldom of Thomond having died out sixty years before, and being a senior line to the Earls of Inchiquin.

James O'Brien became M.P. for Youghal, and married Mary Jephson, daughter of the Dean of Kilmore; he died in 1771. She died in 1760. He had two sisters, Mary born in 1680, who married in 1709 the 19th. Earl of Kildare, whose eldest son became the 1st Duke of Leinster, and Henrietta, died 1730, married in 1717 Robert Sandford of Castlereagh.

To return to William 4th. of Inchiquin, he was one of the original members of the Order of the Knights of the Bath, and became Lord of the Bedchamber to Frederick Prince of Wales in 1744. In 1720 he married Lady Ann Hamilton, daughter of the first Earl of Orkney. She died in 1756. In 1761 he married, secondly, Mary second daughter of Lord Mount Cashel, but had no issue by her, who died in 1793.

The death of four sons in succession of the first marriage, who were expectant heirs to the Earldom was a family tragedy. William Lord O'Brien, born in 1725, died on 4 April 1727; George Lord O'Brien born 8 Aug. 1727, died on 12 April 1728; Augustus died an infant, and Murrough Lord O'Brien, the fourth son, born in 1731, died of small-pox on 20 September 1741. He was Viscount Kirkwell, "suo jure matris", who was Countess of Orkney in her own right on succession from her father, the first Earl of Orkney..

It was this Murrough Lord O'Brien, who was named first in the will, dated 1738, of Henry 8th. and last Earl of Thomond, his kinsman, to succeed him, the Earl having no heirs. He died, however, without succeeding to the very large Irish estates of which the Earl disposed at his death in 1741.

These went by remainder in the will to Percy Wyndham, whose descendants are the Barons Leconfield. Percy Wyndham was the Earl's nephew by marriage. A full account of this marriage connection of the Thomond-O'Briens with the Wyndhams is given in a chapter on the Earls of Thomond line.

The English residence of the Orkneys was Clifden at Taplow, now owned by Lord Astor. It was Orkney property. The four sons,

who died, are buried at the church at Taplow. One of the walks in the pleasure grounds at Clifden is named, "Inchiquin Walk".

William 4th. Earl of Inchiquin was M.P. in the British Parliament of 1715 and 1722 for the Borough of New Windsor. In 1741, M.P. for Camelford in Cornwall, and in 1747 for Aylesbury, Bucks. In 1725 he was created a Knight of the Companion of the Bath, the day after King George I had re-established it, and made it a military order. He was installed at Westminster on 17 June that year.

In 1741, the year that his kinsman the 8th. Earl of Thomond died, he was made Governor of the County of Clare, of which he was lord-lieutenant.

Besides his four sons, there were four daughters of the marriage with Lady Anne Hamilton, one of whom Lady Mary O'Brien married her first cousin Murrough, who was son of Honorable James O'Brien just referred to. She succeeded to her mother's title through the female line, whence descends the Earldom of Orkney, now held by the present Earl of Orkney whose family through the female descent has much O'Brien blood in it. There is a miniature at Dromoland by Thomas Hazelhurst of Lady Mary O'Brien.

The 4th. Earl of Inchiquin died on 18 July 1777, and was buried at Cloyne Cathedral Church, a few miles from Rostellan Castle near Cork. There are four portraits of him at Dromoland Castle, one is a specially fine one, painted by William Hogarth in his robes. His nephew, Murrough O'Brien, who was born in 1726, succeeded him as 5th. Earl. He continued to reside at Rostellan, and had a home in London, 39 Grosvenor Place. He was created marquis of Thomond in 1800, and in 1808 was thrown from his horse in Grosvenor Square, and died from his injuries. He was 82 years of age. He left no heirs, and his brother Edward's two sons, succeeded in succession to one another, William, and James the Admiral. They had no male heirs so the Earldom of Inchiquin and Marquisate of Thomond died out in 1855. The Barony of Inchiquin survived as we have seen for the Dromoland O'Briens. William 2nd. Marquis died in 1846, James the 3rd. Marquis in 1855.

Murrough 5th. Earl had been sworn of the Privy Council in Ireland. He sat first in Parliament as a peer, and on the institution of the most illustrious order of the Knights of St. Patrick, he had the honor to be nominated by the Sovereign an original Knight Companion of the Order, and with other Knights was installed in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin on 17th. March (St. Patrick's Day) 1783. Of

recent years his coat of arms on a brass shield in the Cathedral was destroyed by fire with others of the Knights of more recent date. A new one has lately been placed in the choir, correctly illuminated by the Irish Genealogical Office, formerly, the office of Ulster King of Arms in Dublin.

In March 1753, he married his first cousin, Lady Mary O'Brien. She was born on 12 January 1733. There was no <sup>male</sup> issue of the marriage. He married, secondly, Mary Palmer, on 25th July 1792. She was the daughter of Mr. John Palmer of Torrington in Devonshire, and was a niece of Sir Joshua Reynolds, at whose death on 23 February 1792, she inherited a fortune of £. 40,000, including his studio of pictures. Mary, like her sister, Theophila, painted miniatures, and the O'Briens possess one by her of Sir Joshua Reynolds, done in his studio, where his nieces worked, from his well known self-portrait, which had been painted for his intimate friend and biographer, Edmond Malone, engraved by Caroline Watson in 1789. The famous artist is wearing a dark green coat, wig and white cravate, and spectacles, against a dark grey background. The picture is now in the possession of Lord Iveagh at Harwood; the miniature was, in the first instance, presented by the Marchioness of Thomond, as she had so become on her husband obtaining a step in the peerage in 1800 to Dr. Bryant of 23A Sussex Square, Hyde Park, London, it is said from gratitude for his medical services to her. Of recent years it was acquired by the author from the doctor's successors. It is of interest to recount the circumstances of Sir Joshua Reynold's funeral, at which, Murrough, her future husband was one of the pall bearers.

Sir Joshua was buried in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral on 3rd. March. The pall bearers in the funeral procession numbered ten including Murrough Earl of Inchiquin, all peers :- Three Dukes, two Marquises, two Earls, one Viscount and a Baron. Mary Marchioness of Thomond died on 7th September 1820, her husband having pre-deceased her on 10th February 1808. At the sale at Christie's auction rooms in 1821, her effects were disposed of, including pictures, drawings by old masters, and prints. The whole fetched £ 15,040. The catalogue of the works disposed of at the sale, prices obtained, and the names of the purchasers may be seen in the library of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and is of some interest, as indicating contemporary prices of the master's works.

Amongst the items which fetched high prices were Sir Joshua's three drawings for the famous sepia glass-windows in New College Chapel at Oxford. At Sotherby's sales rooms in Bond Street on 21st. July 1943 a portrait by the artist of his <sup>real</sup> wife (Mary Palmer) was sold for £180. Lot 46 was described as "Mary Palmer, afterwards Marchioness of Thomond - bust turned to the left, in black dress and white fichu. In feigned oval. 30 x 25 ins.". Her hair is powdered and dressed high on her head, and brushed back from the forehead, 3 curls at the top. It is brought down coquettishly to below the ear in a large curl.

While Mary is referred to in Foster's, "Dictionary of Miniature Painters, British and Foreign", as a miniature painter, this author treats at greater length of her sister, Theophila, Mrs. Gwatkin, as one. He illustrates a delightful portrait of her as quite an old lady with a charming expression — she lived to ninety. It was painted by Samuel Lover, and was in the Whitehead collection. Theophila is well known as the original of "The Strawberry Girl", by Reynolds.

It was to her that Sir Joshua addressed these playful lines :-

"When I drink tea, I think of my The,  
 "And when I drink coffee, I think of my Offy ;  
 "So, whether I drink tea or my coffee,  
 "I always am thinking of thee, my Theoffy"

She married Mr. Gwatkin, a successful miniaturist. Mr. Frank Ashton Gwatkin, who won the Newdigate prize for English verse in his days at Balliol College, Oxford, and is a distinguished figure at the British Foreign office in London, is her descendant, and takes a lively interest in his interesting ancestor. We have not asked him, what he thinks of Sir Joshua's verse to her. He should be competent to give an answer, but we have refrained !

Amongst miniatures painted by Mrs. Gwatkin was one of Mrs. Robinson (Perdita), which was shown at the Guelph Exhibition. She died in 1848, surviving her sister Mary by twenty eight years.

We referred to the 5th. Earl's brother Edward O'Brien, who was in the royal navy, and died in his father's lifetime in 1801 at Ros-tellan Castle, leaving two sons, William and James. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, as appears from the University records, where he entered on 11 January 1749/50 at the age of 15, and was born at Drogheda, from which may be concluded that he died aged 65 years. He married Mary Carrick of whom nothing is known.

An amusing story of this Edward O'Brien is related in the Dublin Chronicle of the 10th. of January 1788 :-

"Captain Edward O'Brien of the Royal Navy, who was brought up at Rostellan Castle a few miles from Queenstown Harbour, soon decided to follow the career of a sailor. Young Edward's commission in the Navy was dated 28th September 1747. Few men goes on the account, "have been more fortunate, and yet few so fortunate at sea ; his first misfortune was on the coast of India, when his ship was wrecked, and all on board but O'Brien and four other persons perished.

"On his return to Europe, he was cast away near the Cape of Good Hope, and providentially got to shore.

"The Dutch Governor, finding him of high birth, supplied him with the accessories for the voyage, and a cabin in one of the Dutch homeward bound 'India Men'. But an Asiatic Governor, then on his way to Europe, requested the Governor of the Cape to leave the ship to himself and suite.

"Solicitous to oblige his countryman, he prevailed on the passengers to accept accommodation on an Indian-man, which sailed at the same time. In twenty four hours after they had left the Cape, O'Brien saw the ship he had quitted, foundered and every soul perish.

"He was afterwards on the Dartmouth of fifty guns ; which falling in with the Glorioso, a Spanish man of war, of superior strength, gallantly engaged her, and while O'Brien was in his station between the decks, the gunner ran to him, and with a look of despair, exclaimed, 'Oh ! Sir, the powder Room !' The ship instantly blew up, but O'Brien was found floating on the carriage of a gun, with his clothes burned and torn to tatters. Hence it was guessed that he had been blown out through a port-hole, with one of the guns ! He was picked up by the Duke, privateer, and treated with every possible attention.

"On coming to himself he was introduced to the Captain, whom he thus gravely addressed : 'Sir, you will excuse me for appearing before you in such a dress, but I left my ship with so much precipitation, that I had no time to put on better clothing'".

The Journal adds, that,

"had Mr. O'Brien not retired from the service many years ago, he would probably today have ranked high in the list of Admirals".

A sister of Murrough 5th. Earl of Inchiquin, and of Edward O'Brien R.N., was Anne O'Brien. She married Michael Cox, student of Christ Church, Oxford, where is a picture of him in bishop's robes. He became Bishop of Ossory, and lived at Kilkenny ; he later became Bishop of Cashel. There is a portrait of him and his wife at the National Gallery in Dublin. Their marriage took place in 1744, and

she died in the following year in childbirth ; her husband raised to her memory in Kilkenny Cathedral a fine black marble stone monument, surmounted by a full length white marble figure of a woman representing "Purity". The statue is by Scheemaker, a Netherlands sculptor, who was practising in England about that time, and acquired considerable notoriety for his work.

Lodge's Peerage, of 1789, gives some account of this union, and quotes the text of the inscription on the monument :-

"Sub—hoc marmore clauditar  
 "Annae Cox quod mortale fuit  
 "Jacobi O'Brien filiae comitis nuper  
 "de Inchiquin filii, quae Michaeli  
 "Cox Episcopo ossoriensi anno 1745,  
 "Matrimonio juncta, eodem anno aetatis  
 "suae 23, fatali puerperio abrepta est  
 "Prius enixa Filium ;  
 "Quantae jacturae, quantillum solamen !  
 "Illa nempe  
 "Tam corporis quam animi dotibus  
     "A natura ditata  
 "Dignaque iisdem disciplina  
 "Liberaliter instituta,  
 "Non minus sancte quam eleganter vitam exegit,  
 "Ingens sui desiderium Parentibus, cognatis, amicis,  
 "Infandum conjugi maerorum,  
 "Singulisque, singularum virtutum  
 "Exemplar optimum reliquit  
     "Contemplare Lector,  
 "Humanae Felicitatis caducam fortem,  
 "Et adversus inopinos et misserimos carus  
     (nullibi praeclarius monendus)  
     "Animum bene munitum et erectum para."

The Bishop was born in 1691, and died in 1779, 34 years after his wife. Her son Richard Cox survived her, and became grandfather of Sir Michael Cox, 11th and last baronet. Richard died in 1858.

This fine monument, amongst many fine ones in the Cathedral of St. Canice was erected inside the building, which is described in Ledwich's "Antiquities of Ireland" p. 393.

It says, it is on the left of the door entering the chancel and is described in these terms :-

"This elegant monument is of white marble, from which rises  
 "a shaft, on which is the arms of the deceased.

"Piety, a whole length, holds a book in one hand, and reclines her head on the other, which leans on an urn.

"The whole is well conceived and executed by Scheemaker".

Some fifteen years ago the statue fell to the ground, and was considered to be so damaged that it could not be repaired. It was turned over to a local stonemason, who kept it in his yard till a few years ago when the author called to see it, having heard of the catastrophe. He was assured it could be repaired sufficiently to have it re-erected in its old position ; the mason explained that he had not been able to come to the point of cutting it up for other use, as each time he purposed doing so he was impressed with the beauty of the work and especially the carving of the hair.

With the consent of the Bishop, The <sup>Rev.</sup> Very Revd. Dr. Phair, and under his direction, the repairs were executed by the mason, and the white marble figure of Purity again stands, where it had been originally erected two centuries ago. Some members of the O'Brien family defrayed the expense of the work.

Central heating had only shortly been introduced into the Cathedral, which loosened the heavy black marble plaque, which was pinned into the wall, and offered a background to the white marble figure. Dr. Phair was sleeping in his Palace, that is by the Cathedral, when, in the dead of night, he heard a resounding crash from the interior. Going over to see what had happened, his gaze met a pile of masonry and the white monument, lying scattered on the floor in utter confusion !

To return to the two sons of Edward O'Brien, William and James ; the first became 2nd. Marquis of Thomond, and Knight of St. Patrick, born about 1765, he married on 16 September 1799 the daughter and heiress of Thomas Duleck ; she died in 1852, he predeceased her, dying in 1846. William had four daughters by her, all of whom married, and three had descendants, but he had no son and heir. The eldest, Lady Susan O'Brien, married in 1824 Captain George Frederick Hotham, R.N., who was born in 1797. She died in 1857. At Dromoland Castle, is a miniature of her by Adam Buck ; Lady Sarah O'Brien, who married in 1830 Major William Stanhope Taylor, son of Thomas Taylor of Sevenoaks, grandson of Charles Earl of Stanhope. She died in 1859.

Lady Mary O'Brien, married in 1830 Richard 2nd. Earl of Bantry. She died without issue. The title became extinct in 1891 ; and Lady Elizabeth O'Brien, who married in 1835 Sir George Stuckley,

created a Baronet in 1859, of Affeton Park and Hartland Abbey, County Devon, she died in 1870. She married secondly, General James Orde, who died in 1850. Her two sons William Lewis, and Edward became, respectively, 2nd. and 3rd. Baronets. William was born in 1836, and married in 1869 Rosemond Head, who died without issue in 1877. Her second son, Edward, died in 1927 without issue. There is a fine portrait at Dromoland of the second Marquis, painted by Thomas Clement Thompson, R.H.A. (artist born 1870, died 1859).

7 James, his brother, the third and last of his line was born in 1869. He entered the Navy as a Captain's servant on 17 April 1783 on board the Hebe, then stationed in the channel. From 1786 to 1789 he was a midshipman in the Pegasus and Andromeda frigates, both commanded by the Duke of Clarence, under whom he also served with the channel fleet in the Valiant in 1790. As lieutenant he joined in succession on the home station, The London (98), The Artois (38), and the Brunswick (74). In the latter ship he was present with Cornwallis's celebrated retreat, 16th, and 17th. June 1795.

On 5 December 1796 he was promoted to the command of the Childers sloop. From 1800 to 1804 he commanded the Emerald on the West Indian Station, where, on 24 June 1803 he made a prize of the *L'Enfant Prodigue*, a french National Schooner of sixteen guns, and in the spring of 1804 distinguished himself in forwarding the supplies at the capture of Suriman, as well as by defeating a projected expedition by the enemy against Antigua. He had married as his first wife in 1799 Eliza Bridgeman, who had died in 1802. She was the second daughter of James Willyams of Carmanton, Cornwall; he married secondly, while in the West Indies, Jane, daughter of Thomas Ottley, and widow of Valentine Horne Horsford of Antigua.

In February 1808, two years later, he was advanced to the same precedence, as if his father had succeeded to the Marquisate of Thomond, and was, henceforth, known as Lord James O'Brien. From September 1813 till November 1815, he served in the channel in the Warspite (74). He became a rear-admiral in 1837, the year the Princess Victoria became Queen, and a full admiral on 13th May 1847. In the interval of his two promotions, his second wife, Jane, died viz. on 8th September 1843.

On the accession of William IV, in 1830 he had been made a lord

of the Bedchamber, and nominated G.C.M. on 13th May 1831. He married, thirdly, on the 5th January 1847 at Bath, Anne, sister of Sir C.W. Flint, and widow of Rear Admiral Fane.

He was promoted an Admiral of the Fleet in 1853. The Marquis left no issue, and the title with the Earldom of Inchiquin, expired at his death in 1855. His wife survived him until 1874, residing in their London house 39, Grosvenor Place, where in the following year on 13 February, a six days sale of the contents of the house took place.

By her will she left to Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin of Dromoland Castle, who had succeeded her husband in the title of Baron Inchiquin, *inter alia*, four bog oak tablets painted on panel, and representing four historic scenes and events in the lifetime of Brian Boróimhe ; also, what have become known as the "Thomond Diamonds", including a fine diamond necklace and tiara, and two fine drop-earrings. These, with a picture by Sir Martin Archer Shee P.H.A. of Murrough 1st. Marquis, in his robes, her uncle-in-law ; they are at Dromoland, and have become heirlooms in the family to follow the Barony.

There were legal proceedings asking the Court for an interpretation of a certain clause in the will of Lady Thomond, which had been loosely drawn. The question was, whether she had intended to bequeath these things to Lucius Lord Inchiquin absolutely, in which case, he having died, the gift had lapsed ; or whether she had intended the gift, to whomever might be the Lord Inchiquin at the time of her death, and if so whether, in consequence she had created a trust for them to remain heirlooms in the family and pass with the title. The Court accepted the second proposition as the true one and these effects were handed, accordingly, to Lucius' successor in title, Edward Donough 14th. Baron Inchiquin. Had the first been accepted, the residuary legatee, who was not an O'Brien, would have taken.

The catalogue at Lady Thomond's sale included the following items of interest to the O'Briens, some of which were bought by members of the family, and are now at Dromoland :-

1.—"Self portrait of Sir Joshua Reynolds, when president of the Royal Academy, inherited by Miss Palmer, his niece and heiress, afterwards Marchioness of Thomond, and has continued in the possession of the family up to the present day".

2.—"Portrait of Mary, 1st. Marchioness of Thomond, and niece and heiress of Sir Joshua Reynolds".

3.—“3/4 length portrait of Murrough 1st. Marquis of Thomond in his robes by Sir Thomas Lawrence”.

4.—“A pair of portraits, Sir Donough and Lady O'Brien”.

5.—“3/4 length portrait of Wm. O'Brien 3rd. Earl of Inchiquin by Sir Godfrey Kneller”.

6.—“3/4 length portrait of the Countess of Inchiquin, wife of 3rd. Earl, by Sir Godfrey Kneller”.

7.—“Portrait of 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin, by Sir Godfrey Kneller”.

8.—“Portrait of James, 3rd. Marquis of Thomond, in his Admiral's uniform”.

9.—“Four Bog-oak tablets with inscriptions and paintings, illustrating the history of the Great Irish Monarch, Brian Boromhe”.

It is probable, that, Nos. 8 and 9, were withdrawn from the sale, when it became known, that the 14th. Baron Inchiquin's legal advisers said, he had a claim to them under the will, in that the gift to his father, Lucius 13th. Baron, had not been an “absolute” gift, but had been intended for his successors. This is only a matter of conjecture, but seems the only way to account for their being withdrawn. They were, certainly, handed over in terms of the will eventually, and were not bought from the executors. They have been at Dromoland Castle ever since.

James Marquis of Thomond, died possessed of Rostellan Castle, which his ancestor, Murrough O'Brien, 1st. Earl of Inchiquin occupied, about the time he returned from France with Charles II, 1662. It was subsequently sold. In 1886, it belonged to Mr. James F.N. Wise, and two years later, it became the property of Sir John Pope Hennessy, and the Hennessys lived there for many years.

The contents of the place, at Lord Thomond's trustees' sale included the reputed sword of Brian Boromhe, which is now preserved by the Vernon family and is hung in the hall of Clontarf Castle, which is quite near the scene of the famous battle of that name. A gigantic weapon, which would take two hands to wield. The ancient “O'Brien” arms which surmount the entrance to Rostellan Castle are cut in stone, and a covered corridor leads to the old chapel, forming part of the building. The remaining interior walls of the former castle still exist, being 12 feet thick in places, showing that it must have been a powerful stronghold in the 17th. Century. In the park is a disused mine, from whose clay the famous Rostellan ware was made.

A set of 24 fine dinner plates of this ware, and made here, were

in possession of the last marquis, and have been at Dromoland for many years. These plates passed under his widow's will to the Lord Inchiquin, in 1874.

Mr. Ingledew was living at Rostellan about 1920 ; he told a story of a statue, which stood near the house overlooking Queenstown bay. The statue had disappeared many years ago, and all that remained, was its pedestal. On asking whose statue it had supported, we were given the following story ; Admiral Lord Thomond had erected a bust to commemorate Lord Hawke a distinguished Admiral of the Fleet ; and the municipality of Queenstown, and some few other subscribers had undertaken to provide the money. Lord Thomond turned it with its back to Queenstown, as a protest against the town not providing its agreed share of the cost, whereby he was personally mulcted. Perhaps some of its citizens, may have been enraged at the insult, and did away with the bust. On a high tide, which comes up close to the grounds, a landing in the dead of night would be simple.

Two years after the Marquis' death, his widow presented to the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin the sceptre of Brian Boromhe. The exact date of the month and the year is mentioned in John Donoghue's "Memoir of the O'Briens", published in 1860. But no trace of it can be found either at the Irish Academy or at the National Museum. The author took some pains in recent years to find it, but on making enquiries no record of its existence was forthcoming. On page 464 of his memoir Mr. Donoghue says :-

"The sceptre of Brian is preserved in the Royal Irish Academy.

"It was presented by the Marchioness of Thomond on the decease

"of her husband, the last of the descendants of the eldest son of

"Morrogh the Tanist. The donation bears date 24th June 1857".

Now in possession of Lord Inchiquin at Dromoland is a bronze finger ring, said to have belonged to Brian, and has always been in the family. It recently came from a descendant of William the 2nd. Marquis of Thomond, who doubtless inherited it from his ancestor, Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist (died 1551). The Marquis' daughter Lady Elizabeth O'Brien, who married Sir George Stuckley in 1835 became possessed of it, after her father's death. It will be remembered that he had no male heir, but four daughters, of whom she was the youngest. It was given by one of Lady Elizabeth's descendants to Lord Inchiquin about 15 years ago.

James 3rd. Marquis left to the Admiralty, to the disappointment of his kinsman extant at Dromoland, three fine full length portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and which he had inherited, via, his brother William, who had been left them by his uncle Murrough 1st. Marquis. When Admiral of the Fleet, he was stationed at Admiralty House at Portsmouth, where these pictures are to this day, and where he kept them during his appointment there. It will be remembered, that Murrough had married Mary Palmer, niece of Sir Joshua, and was his heiress, whence came the pictures.

James was married to his 3rd. wife (Anne Flint) at Bath on 5 January 1847, and he lived part of his time there after the marriage. He was residing there in 1853, as appears from an entry in "The Art Journal" of that year. This is the text :-

"Art Journal. Volume for 1853 p. 138 :-

"The Bath Graphic Society concluded their meeting for the "season by giving a grand exhibition in the wellknown great ball "room. The catalogue of the Contributors would occupy too much "of our space.

"We can therefore say that there are no less than six large portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds : three of these George III, The Prince "of Wales, and Duke of York, we are informed will be presented by "the present owner, the Marquis of Thomond to the Admiralty House "at Portsmouth ; the other three were formerly in the Howe Collection ; and notwithstanding the noble air thrown over the portrait of "the Marquess of Granby, the property of Mr. Maud of Bathampton, "of these we must place the portrait of "Lord Grenville" as amongst "the very finest of Sir Joshua's performances.

"We know no head of the English School of Art, which so "instantly challenges a comparison with the 'Govartius' of Vandyk "as this : It is now the property of Mr. W. Gore Langton M.P."

At Dromoland is a fine 3/4 length portrait of the Admiral in naval uniform, wearing the blue ribbon and order of St. Patrick. He died at Bath on 3rd July 1855, aged 86.

There had been a younger brother to the 2nd. and 3rd. Marquis, Lord Edward O'Brien, but he predeceased both of them on 9 March 1824. He married three times, but had no male heir, till, by his 3rd. wife, Lady Elizabeth Seymour, daughter of the 7th. Duke of Beaufort, he had a son, Henry William, born in 1823, and heir, next but one, to William 2nd Marquis.

The birth of this boy was of some importance ; at the time William had four daughters only and James' first wife had died in 1802, and he had not then remarried. So the hopes of all the Thomonds were

centred on him. But five years later young Henry died on 28th of August 1828. He was buried at Funtington Church, near Chichester, where is a tablet in the tower to his memory. His mother married secondly in 1850, Colonel Orde, whose successors possess a charming miniature of young Henry. Lord Inchiquin has a photograph of it. He is seated on a roll-cushion, fondling a pet cat at his side, in a black dress, with bare arms and neck, bows on his shoulders. He is probably three years old here, which would date the miniature, as painted in 1826. His uncle James had been married 26 years, and had no male heir, hence a grievous disappointment was felt in the family, yet James seems never to have given up hope that an heir would be born to him, for four years after the death of his second wife on 8 September 1843, he married Ann Flint, who survived him, yet left no heir. Murrough 1st. Marquis, his uncle had started his career as a soldier ; he carried the colours at the Battle of Laffelt in Germany in 1747 being at that time an ensign in the First Regiment of Guards. He was then 21 years of age, having been born in 1726. When he died in 1808, he left his widow Mary Palmer a dowry of £ 1,000 a year, and as she had £. 2,000 from her own fortune, she had an income of £. 3,000 a year.

When they married, his estates were being nursed, and to relieve him of incumbrances, she paid him £. 20,000. The money to be refunded for her ultimate use by payments of £3,000 a year out of his estates. Forty thousand pounds was funded for her in 3% Stock, to which, after his death the said £ 1,000 jointure was added.

About the time of his death Lord Thomond had £ 11,000 a year, viz. £. 7,000 from his estates in County Clare, and £. 4,000 from those in County Cork. Before his marriage, his trustees were only allowing him £. 1,200 a year. He married Mary Palmer about five months after her uncle's death from whom she inherited a substantial fortune of £. 40,000. Sir Joshua died in 1792, and on 12th. 13th. and 14th. of March 1795, a three days sale took place, by order of his executors, who were Edmund Burke, Edmund Malone and Philip Metcalfe. £. 10,319 was realized from his pictures ; and the sketches in the following year fetched £. 4,536. Sir Joshua Reynolds had been a collector ; and a number of his purchases were bought in at the sale at prices considerably less than those he paid for them.

Edmund Burke wrote immediately after his death :-

“We do not know his circumstances exactly, because we have  
“not been able to estimate the immense collection of pictures, drawings, and prints. They stood him in more than £. 20,000”.

The pictures and sketches by him, and old masters, sold, after the Marchioness' death on the 18th and 19th. May 1821, fetched £. 16,000, which with the sums obtained in 1795 and 1796, increased the estate ; the sales amounted in all to a sum of £. 30,857.

Two years later in 1798 Lady Thomond received a letter written in French in the name of the Emperor of Russia by one of his ministers. It was addressed to her, as being the near relative of Sir Joshua, expressing his high sense of her <sup>uncle's</sup> husband's merits as an artist, and asking her to accept a memorial in remembrance of it. The letter, which was dated 14 July 1798, was accompanied by a diamond star. Lady Thomond referred to one of her uncle's minor failings. "He was a passionate gambler"; she said of him, "and he admitted it, but considered the spirit inherent in human nature". He once won £ 70, she said, at a sitting, the largest sum he ever made that way. If he went into a company, where there was a Pharo table, or any game of chance, he left behind him, whatever money he had about him.

An amusing story is told of the Marquis, when he was living at Clifden in 1806. The Queen dined with Lady Thomond, and Lord Thomond stood behind her Majesty's chair, with a napkin on his arm, and changed her Majesty's plate.

Before their time, the Prince of Wales, the father of George III, had lived at Clifden. He would never have anybody, of whatever rank, to dine with him and the Princess, and they often went out to dinner incognito.

Lord Thomond was evidently quite a different sort of man, and liked company and dined well. He had the reputation of being a deep drinker on occasions. At dinner his first toast at his own table, which was waited on by four servants, three of whom were in livery, was :- "The Ladies", and the last toast was invariably :- "Merry be our Hearts".

NOTE. — A very full genealogical table on photostat, of The Earls and Barons of Inchiquin, measuring 20 ins by 12 ins, which includes 400 names and 350 dates, is obtainable on application to the publishers. See page 9

## CHAPTER IX.

### THE "ARAN ISLANDS" O'BRIENS

The founder of this branch of the family was Teige Glæ. He was also progenitor of the O'Briens of Tromroe where now stands a ruined castle of that name. It is on the mainland, near Miltown Malbay, in Ibrickan, County Clare. also spelt, Tromra or Tromrow.

The three principal Aran Islands are 6 miles distant from the cliffs of Moher of the County Clare, and almost equidistant from the coast of Galway. There is an infrequent steamer service whereby they can be visited in the summer season. The approach is from Galway Town. The Clare coast here is dangerous to shipping and forbidding to look upon. The cliffs of Moher are 800 feet high, with a straight drop into the sea. At their highest point they are crowned by O'Brien's Castle ; from here a majestic view can be had of the Islands far out to sea, and below.

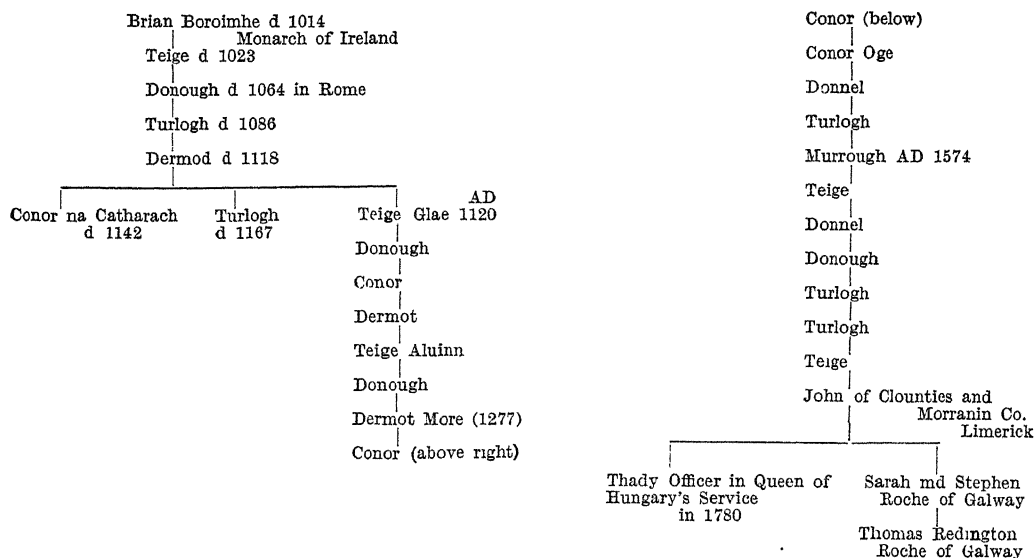
The largest Island of the group is called Inishmore (Inismore), the middle island, Inismeadhan (Innismaine), and the most southerly is called Innisheer (Inisiar).

Killeany was the capital town of the first down to late in the 18th. century, and here is a prehistoric fort called Dun Aengus.

The Island possesses another fort called, Dun Oghill. In Killeany itself is the fort of Arkin. A Franciscan Monastery was built in the town about AD. 1410.

In the third island is Trowmore, the name given to the district in the island (Innisheer) in which was situated the castle of the O'Briens built about the end of the 14th century.

Teige Glæ is descended from Brian Boromhe thus :



Dermot More O'Brien, grandson of Teige Aluinn, who resided at Tromra in Clare in AD. 1277, is recorded to have received from the Corporation of Galway in AD. 1280 twelve tuns of wine yearly, as a tribute for protecting the adjoining waters from pirates ; and twenty years later Galway merchants made application to him, as Lord of Aran, to protect their trade. For this service he received, likewise, twelve tuns of wine yearly.

There is little recorded of the history of the islands for a century and a half, from the time of the building of the Monastery in 1410 down to 1580. Such as it is, is fragmentary, but enough is known to show that the O'Briens had retained their lordship of the islands down to this period. In 1560 Teige O'Brien raided Desmond, and was drowned on the way home at Great Mans Bay, and the "Four Masters" record that in that year Conor, 3rd Earl of Thomond, to avenge his kinsmen on the island, marched into the western seaboard of Connaught to attack Murrough na Dtuadh O'Flaherty. This is the earliest account of conflict between the O'Briens of Aran and the O'Flaherties, who eventually wrested from them the lordship of the islands.

About this time there were constantly arising between the O'Briens themselves, on the islands, disputes which eventually led to their expulsion from Aran. Mahon, the son of Turlogh Mantach, son

of Donogh, son of Donal, son of Turlogh the Fat, was killed in Ardkin Castle by his friends and followers. The murderers were pursued by people of Galway, and eventually seized by Donal O'Brien, son of Conor, in Corcobaskin, and were hanged in Math Glac. This happened in 1565. Arkin Castle was the principal residence of the O'Briens on the islands, and on its site Queen Elizabeth eventually erected a castle.

J.G. Barry, writing about 1885, says the O'Briens were dispossessed by the O'Flaherties in 1565. We think, however, their influence remained over the islands for another twenty years.

The O'Briens were now beginning to get into difficulties, and the previous few years had witnessed a change in their fortunes. Early in the year in question, or just previously, Murrough O'Brien conveyed the lands by mortgage to James Lynch Fitzambrose and his heirs for a sum of money. In 1573 O'Brien and Lynch made an agreement that if the Clan Teige was permanently displaced, the islands should revert to Lynch.

Carew M.S. records, that in 1574 Aran, containing the Islands of Aran, 7 leagues distant from Galway into the main sea were under the Chieftaincy of Murrough ne Doe O'Flaherty.

The same year came to Galway, Captain Murrough McTurlogh O'Brien, together with leading members of the Clan Teige, to ask for help in their efforts to ransom the islands.

Hospitality was granted, and the Mayor of Galway agreed to help him against anyone attempting to attack or plunder the Clan. It had been agreed between O'Brien and Lynch, that if the Clan Teige went down, Lynch should be his sole heir. This was amended, whereby, should they perish, the whole Corporation of Galway should be the Clan's heirs.

It was stipulated that the clan should not mortgage the islands without their consent and licence. By this means the islands were to become mortgaged to the Corporation. At the same time the Clan elected Captain Murrough McTurlogh O'Brien to be their attorney for ransoming Aran from Lynch.

The names of eight members of the Clan are recorded, and with a note, that they were :-

"Gentlemen All of Aran, and Dermod McCormack McConchor "(in particular) was of the Castle of Tromrow".

The next step in the Islands' history, no doubt resulting from the intervention of the City of Galway officially into the settlement of

the current disputes, was taken by Queen Elizabeth, who in 1579; four years later, in a charger given to Galway, appointed the Mayor to be Admiral within and over the islands. This was followed the next year by her granting to Murrough O'Flaherty the fee farm at the Islands of Aran.

In 1584 we find the descendants of Owen, and of Murrough O'Flaherty on the Connaught Coast at strife. Teige, the latter's son, went with a boat to Aran to pursue the descendants of Owen O'Flaherty and attacked them. The O'Flaherties were no better than the O'Briens in remaining at peace with one another. The position evidently presented a difficulty to the Queen and the following year, all the patents of the coast of Connaught, near Aran, were granted "as to be held of the Queen's Manor", or "Castle of Ardkyne", and the Barony of Aran is named as the Queen's "inheritance".

Finally in 1586, the year in which the O'Flaherties expelled the O'Briens, a commission was appointed under the great seal, which found that neither the O'Briens, nor the O'Flaherties had any title to Aran.

Father O'Donnell states, that the O'Briens had been Lords of Aran for four hundred and fifty years.

Queen Elizabeth demised the islands now, to Sir Thomas l'Estrange, and later granted the fee simple to Sir John Rawson by letters patent. He is noted in an instrument, enrolled in the Rolls office, as "an industrious discoverer of lands for the Queen".

In 1587 Queen Elizabeth created Ard Kyne a Royal Manor.

What now raised hopes in the O'Briens of the Clan Teige, that they would finally recover their islands, was a petition presented in 1588 to the Queen by the Corporation of Galway on behalf of the Clan and its head, Captain Murrough McTurlogh O'Brien, claiming their right to hold Aran ; the islands of Aran had been forfeited to her in that year for the non-payment of rent.

The Petition failed, and the islands were vested in Sir Roebuck Lynch of Galway. This was probably due to the fact that O'Brien forfeited as mortgagor the equity of redemption, which has been referred to.

So Lynch, the mortgagee remained in possession of the legal estate, and he, on Rawson failing to perform the covenants in the mortgage, foreclosed the mortgage.

The history of the "Aran O'Briens" ended now ; they had been expelled by the O'Flaherties, who in their turn had lost all title to the islands at the hands of Queen Elizabeth, who appointed the Commission under the great seal, which has been mentioned. Neither O'Briens, nor O'Flaherties were, hence forward, able to stage a "come-back".

From then onwards the history of the islands, which has much of interest, became under the lordship of the Crown of England, and was the subject of grants from time to time to Anglo-Irish persons, who had earned its pleasure.

A brief reference is given lower down to the terms of the petition presented in favor of the Clan and Captain Murrough McTurloch O'Brien mentioned above.

James Frost, in his "History and Topography of the County of Clare", says :-

"In the parish of Kilmurry stands the Castle of Tromra, long  
"the residence of the Clan McTeige O'Brien of Aran, as we learn  
"from a document in the manuscripts library of Trinity College,  
"Dublin, and from Dr. O'Brien's dictionary under the word, 'Tromra'.  
"It was part of the patrimonial estates of the O'Briens of Aran, descended from Teige Glæe, the 3rd. son of Dermot, King of Munster  
"in AD. 1120".

The O'Briens of Aran and Tromra are the third in rank of the O'Brien lines descending to Turlogh Don from King Dermot O'Brien's third son. They were always sovereign lords of the Isles of Aran in the bay of Galway, and of Tromra, in the County of Clare until the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

This is proved by the address of the 30th. March 1588, which the Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of Galway wrote in their favor to the Queen (see below). An authentic copy of the address was possessed, in the time of Bishop O'Brien, by John O'Brien, Esq., of Clounties, in the Co. of Limerick, the then worthy direct chief of the house of Aran.

Teige Glæe the progenitor of the Aran O'Briens took his name from Tuath Glæe, one part of the Barony of Corcomroe, an area co-terminous with the present parish of Killilagh. It was possessed for some time by this branch of the family, which was called Glæe, after the name of their lands. It was also, the home of a family distinguished in the annals of Ireland for their accomplishments, as lawyers and teachers of law. The MacClancys have long since

fallen into decay, not much being heard of them, since the death of Boetius Clancy, whom Queen Elizabeth made her first sheriff in the County of Clare, and who attended her Parliament in 1585 in Dublin, as one of its members. It was this Clancy who presented the ancient Spanish mahogany table from the Captain's cabin of one of the Armada ships wrecked off the Clare coast to Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle, his brother-in-law.

The MacClancy's seat was at Cahir MacClancy, and their school of law at Knockfinn, where the present catholic church of Tuath Glac stands. The family were hereditary Brehons of Thomond. There are many instances in which they took part in the public affairs of their country, as appears by the fact that various treaties between its Chieftains and many agreements between private individuals, were drawn up and signed as witnesses by members of their family. To constitute a legal instrument in Thomond it seemed almost always to require the signature of a MacClancy.

A large part of the modern village of Killelagh constituted their patrimony, and those lands amongst the most fertile in Ireland, were held free from any rent or imposition by virtue of their office of chief judges. This may be deduced from a perusal of "The Rental of O'Brien", where their demesne is exempted from all taxation. Many scholars from all over Ireland attended their school of Knockfin.

It had been rumoured, as a place of learning for centuries, and the owners were honoured and prosperous ; but towards the end of the 16th century their practice and teaching ceased. Probably as the result of the change in the tenure of land from the ancient system of gavelkind, to the law of legal inheritance, imposed on the country by successive English Governments in the last half of that century.

The system of Irish law under the Brehons gradually evaporated, the English methods taking their place.

Boetius Clancy the last member of note of this clan in the county became Protestant, and took appointments under the English Crown as has been seen. He was a man fluent in Latin, Irish and the English languages ; and his immediate ancestry appears in the annals of the Four Masters, as the son of Hugh, the son of Boetius, the son of Murtagh MacClancy of Cnoc-Finn. He died in April AD. 1598. Murtagh MacClancy, who died in 1485, was judge in Thomond, the same year died Conor Oge, judge of Thomond, said to have been a man accomplished in literature and poetry.

He was succeeded by Hugh MacClancy, who was Chief Judge (or Brehon), and Professor of Law in Thomond, who died in 1492.

It is recorded that another distinguished member of the clan died in 1575 ; Hugh, Professor of Brehon Law and of poetry, and a purchaser of wine ! The Clancys are still to be found in the parish of Kilfarboy.

Here is the address signed by the mayor and bailiffs of the City of Galway (dated 30th March, 1588) referred to on page 156/7. The deed shows that John Blake was the Mayor and Walter Martin and Anthony Kirriwan were the bailiffs. It is countersigned by one Alexander Dermot, notary public ; whereby they testify to Queen Elizabeth in favour of Mortogh MacTurlogh O'Brien, who was then living :

“That the MacTeiges of Aran, his ancestors, were under her majesty and her predecessors temporal captains and lords of the Islands of Aran and their territories and hereditaments elsewhere, under the name of MacTeige O'Brien of Aran, time out of man's memory ; and that they had seen the said Morrough MacTurlogh O'Brien authorized by his sept, as chief of that name, and in possession of the premises as his own lawful inheritance, as more at large, appears in our books of records, wherein he continued, until of late he was by the usurping power of the O'Flahertys expelled, from whom it is taken by some in-quest found in her Majesty's favor. We say, moreover, that the sept of MacTeige O'Brien of Aran, since the foundation of this city and town, were aiding and assisting to ourselves and our predecessors against her majesty's and predecessors' enemies in all times and places, where unto they were called as true, faithful, and liege people to the Crown of England, to maintain, succour, and assist this town.”

Reference being made here to the Cliffs of Moher, whence the Islands of Aran are visible from the shore, it is of interest to know that the name “Moher” is derived from Caher, or stone, called Moher ai Ruaida (O'Ruaidhin's fort), which stood near Hag's Head, and was pulled down at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Cornelius O'Brien, M.P. for the County of Clare in 1850, lived at Birchfield Place, 3 miles on the road from Lahinch to the Cliffs of Moher. There is a monumental obelisk erected to his memory beside a holy well on the road up to the cliffs. On it is engraved an inscription, relating to his services to the County of Clare while a member of Parliament. He was known locally as “Corney O'Brien”. He married, as her second husband, Margaret Long, daughter of Peter Long, widow of James

O'Brien of Limerick (See Chapter X on the Ballynalaken O'Briens). The reference to the "Clancys", the hereditary Brehons or Judges in Thomond, leads here to a note on the hereditary Bards and Antiquaries of Thomond. The O'Duvegans were the Bards and continued so from father to son. The Antiquaries were the O'Clerys and the O'Brodins. The O'Hickeys were the traditional physicians, the name meaning "descendants of the healer".

Toland, writing in 1720 says, the O'Sheils and O'Canvans were, also, hereditary doctors.

As physicians, the O'Hickeys first claim our attention with a long and historic record. The O'Hickeys of Kilkee and of Drim, claim to be the last, "hereditary physicians of the O'Briens of Thomond", and as such, have always been acknowledged by the O'Briens to have occupied that position.

Their descendants are now residing at Kilkee in County Clare, and are still practising their ancient art but with the most up to date knowledge of modern practice in their profession.

In 1641 the family were in possession of Ballyhickey (modern Hazelwood), Quin, Co. Clare, about three miles from Dromoland Castle, Lord Inchiquin's seat and some four miles from Ennis. They possessed, also, the surrounding townlands of Ballyhickey. These lands were part of the original clan lands, allotted to the family, in view of their official position as physicians. They had been held from remote times, no disturbance of tenure having taken place in the County of Clare for a long time previously, except in the early 14th. century, when the Mac Namaras advanced their castles into Glen Omragh, and to the Shannon. In this affair, the area of Quin was not involved.

Connor Hickey, great grandfather of Dr. P.C. Hickey of Kilkee, was the son of Dr. Andrew Hickey of Drim, who died in 1778.

Andrew Hickey married Margaret, the daughter of James Butler of Doone and Bunnahow, County Clare, and of Boytonrath, County Tipperary.

Drim is the next town land to Ballyhickey. In 1641 Donough O'Hickey, with other Hickeys resided at Ballyhickey. His lands were confiscated, and given to Philip Bigoe, and to others. His son Morrish married Honora, daughter of Donough Gillanoye of Tarmon, part of Ballyhickey.

In a petition of claims at Chichester House, Loughlin states, that, "Hickey of Tarmon, did by deed of April 1672, convey to Donough and Daniel Hickey, in consideration for £150, the lands of Drim".

Two other "Claims" show this Loughlin, as being the ultimate owner of Drim.

The property remained in the family until 1893, when it was disposed of to Charles Fitzgerald of Shepperton. Connor Hickey, above mentioned, married a kinswoman of the Ryans of Ballymackoegh, and thereby came into possession of the small property of seven farms in County Limerick.

The family moved to Kilkee in 1869. In the pedigree chart of the Hickey family of Kilkee, eleven generations are shown, each supported by deed record and will.

Michael Hickey, son of Morrish, mentioned above, was secretary and agent to the Right Honorable Henry 7th. Earl of Thomond, and was granted arms in 1688. He died at Great Billing in 1718, which was the English residence of the Earls of Thomond between 1641 and 1741. The 7th Earl of Thomond was buried at Great Billing church, four miles from Northampton. (see Chapter on the Earls of Thomond). The 4th. 5th. 6th. and 8th. Earls, were buried in St. Mary's Cathedral at Limerick, but the 7th. Earl is buried at St. Andrew's Church in the village of Gt. Billing, where is a fine white marble monument erected by his wife to his memory. It is recorded that Dr. Hickey accompanied Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart. of Dromoland, who was born in 1705 and died in 1765, on "The Grand Tour".

The last Prior of Quin Abbey was sheltered by the Hickeys of Drim. The Revd. Father Hogan died there in 1819. The O'Hickeys burial ground is under the steeple of Quin Abbey.

Ballyhickey is now, called "Hazlewood", where Mrs Studdert was living a few years ago. This house was built in 1836.

According to O'Farrell's "Linea Antiqua", the Hickeys trace their early descent from Cormac Cas. Donal it is said changed his name in AD. 1006 to O'Hickey, or descendant of the Healer. The descent passed to Eochy Baldeary via. Cas, Blood, Cathan Fionn. Eochy Baldeary, whence the Hickeys.

The days of the wandering minstrels are ended long since. But the last, and perhaps most famous, of the Irish bards was "Carolán The Blind". He was born in 1670 at a place called, Baile Nuadh, or Newtown, in County Westmeath. He lived for fifty years a life of an itinerant musician, striking from his favorite instrument, the harp, impromptu compositions. He was, at once, a poet, a musician, and a composer, and sang his own verses to his harp. With

his strains he evoked the hearts of the Irish two centuries ago. His ancestors had for centuries followed the same calling. He died in 1738.

Another hereditary family, were the antiquaries, of whom Teige MacDaire MacBrodine, was hereditary antiquary of "The O'Briens of Thomond". He was working for Barnabas 6th. Earl of Thomond, who had been cast out of his Castle of Bunratty near Limerick in the County of Clare by his kinsman and had fled to England to join forces with Charles I. Teige MacDaire MacBrodine was killed in 1647 in the Castle of Donegan, while working for the Earl of Thomond, by the Cromwellian Army, who sacked the castle.

He may be said to have been the last, who so served the Thomonds. Their usefulness was on the wane, and though subsequent heads of the Thomonds tried to revive the use of a family antiquary and bard, the effort failed. It was said, that there were none learned enough to carry on the historical and storied tradition of their office. Perhaps, the long period of the Commonwealth intervening, broke the tradition ; and memory of the ancient songs was lost to the younger generation.

There is an undated letter in O'Brien family correspondence, written to William 2nd. Marquis of Thomond (the Marquis succeeded his uncle 1st. Marquis in 1808 and died in 1846, so the letter would be about a century old) by one David Hyde, who described himself as "farmer"; he enclosed a script copy of an ancient poem, translated from the Irish, which he claimed was written by McBrodine. It eulogizes the master, who employed him, and refers to his long and royal descent.

It records the marquis' ancestor's Victory at the battle of Kenoenoss in 1647 ; gained by Murrough Baron Inchiquin who was in 1654 created 1st. Earl of Inchiquin (The Burner)

The letter says, that the Castle of Donegan, had been given to the MacBrodine family, as "noble appendages".

The letter ends on the following note :-

"Thou present Prince of Borom's Royal line ;  
"Whose fame expands throughout Hibernia's Isle ;  
"May all their virtues exalted in thee shine ;  
"May every blessing, high-born prince, be thine".

At the beginning of the 17th. century, Teige MacDaire was employed by Donough 4th. Earl of Thomond, "The Great Earl",

father of Barnabas 6th Earl, as his genealogist and family historian ; and about this time most of the Senachis, as they were called, were engaged in poetical controversy respecting the claims of superiority between the great family of O'Neal, and the great family of O'Brien. Several thousand verses were employed in it. These have been collected and termed by Irish scholars, "the contention of the Bards". The contention arose out of a composition of Teige MacDaire singing O'Brien praises, and was answered by Louis O'Clery, poet to O'Neal. Rejoinder and reply almost interminable ensued, nearly all the bards of the time taking part in the dispute. But as we have seen, their influence was on the wane, and no serious successor was found to Teige MacDaire MacBrodine, after his death in 1647 in the Castle of Donegan.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE O'BRIENS OF BALLYNALACKAN.

The O'Briens of Ballynalackan Castle, County Clare, which is situated on the Atlantic Coast, and is reached by road from Ennistymon, through the old village of Kilfenora, are descendants of Teige an Chomard, King of Thomond, who had two sons.

The eldest was Turlogh Don, who died in 1528, and who was the common ancestor of the five main branches, to each of which is given a chapter here.

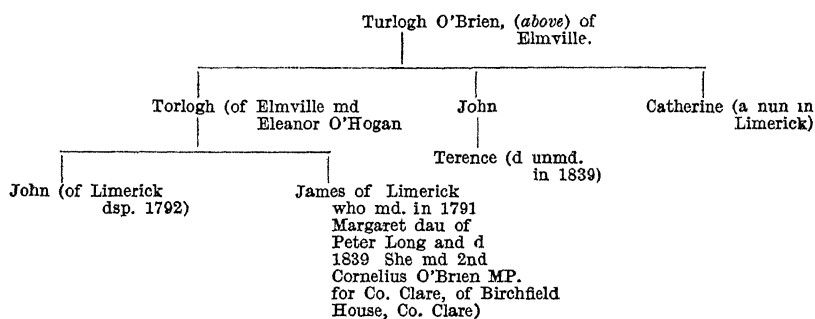
The second son was Donal Bacach, who married Saibh, daughter of O'Lochlin, Prince of Burren. From him is descended this branch of the family. He had Brian, Teige, and Mortogh, all of whom died without issue, and Conor, who married Celia, daughter of O'Dea, Prince of Ive-Fermaie, and was at that early time, about the middle of the 16th Century, in possession of lands at Caruduff, the family patrimony. His descendants held them continuously for a Century, until the Commonwealth party confiscated them in 1682 during the rebellion.

Their lands, however, were restored to his descendant, Brian O'Brien, fifth in descent from Donal Bacach, in the year 1689, by the resettlement by James II, thirty seven years later. They had been confiscated in his father Donald's time, the fourth in descent. Conor O'Brien's younger son was Donough of Caruduff.

Their eldest son, Dermot of Caruduff, who married Eleanor, daughter of Teige MacMahon of Moyarta in the County of Clare, had two sons -

Donald (of Caruduff), who lost the estates by confiscation in the Commonwealth in 1652, who married Honora, the daughter of O'Connor of Corcomroe, and Murrough, of whom there is no record.

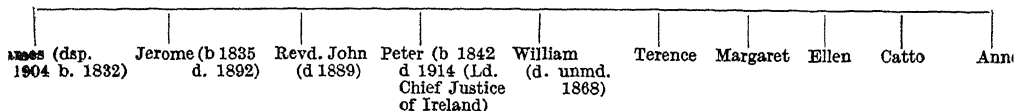
Donald's second son was Conor, à quo Donald Cam. Donald had Brian to whom the estates were restored and who married Mary, daughter of Lochlin MacConsidine of Lac, County Clare. By her he had four sons - Dermot, Turlogh, Teige and Murrough. Dermot died without issue, and Teige also. Murrough died in 1774, having married Maria Louisa de Thomak ; while Turlogh, described as of Elmvale or Cross, married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry O'Brien of Bealagh Corick. Murrough had two sons, who have left no record; Brian who died in 1758, and Florence Dermot : but Turlogh's issue carried down the line, which is here set out in genealogical order :-



This Margaret married secondly Cornelius O'Brien M.P. for County Clare. James had four sons :- John, Peter, Terence, and James O'Brien.

1. John, was born in 1794, and married in 1827, Ellen Murphy, the daughter of Jeremiah Murphy, of Hyde Park Co. Cork. He was of Elmvale, and later of Ballynalacken, Co. Clare. He was M.P. for Limerick from 1842 to 1852, and died in 1855.
2. Peter, of Limerick, born 1799; d.s.p. 1855.
3. Terence, born 1802, died unmarried in 1820.
4. James, born 1806, died 1882, who was M.P. for Limerick from 1854 to 1858 : married Margaret, daughter of Thomas Segrave, and had a son John, and five daughters :- Anne, Margaret, Mary, who married the second son of Chief Justice Monahan, Elaine and Emily.

This John, who was born in 1855, died unmarried. Reverting to John O'Brien, who was born in 1794, and died in 1855 :- He had six sons, and four daughters, thus :-

JOHN 'OBRIEN (*above*) (b 1794 d 1855)

James O'Brien of Ballynalacken Castle, married in 1865 Georgina MacNamara Calcutt, M.P. for County Clare. Jerome married in 1867 Elizabeth Clarke; Peter O'Brien became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland in 1888, and was created a Baron on 16th June 1900 as Baron O'Brien. He was a Privy Councillor. His title became extinct on his decease in 1914, his son James having died young. He left two daughters by this marriage in 1867 to Annie, who died in 1928 daughter of Robert Hare Clarke of Bansha, County Tipperary. His eldest daughter lived for many years in London in Ovington Gardens, S.W. dying in 1943; his second daughter Ellen Mary died on 13th October 1930.

The Chief Justice was known as "Peter the Packer", in Ireland. His friends chaffing him, that he pressed for convictions at some of the trials for crime in Ireland, in the days when juries were reluctant to convict in cases where the accused had acted from political motives. They said of him, that he packed the juries to obtain convictions, which always brought a smile from the Judge. He had the reputation for being a sound lawyer, and had had a successful career at the Irish Bar.

Jerome O'Brien's son, Turlogh, nephew of the Chief Justice, was born in 1867 and died in 1943. He married Norah Harkness in 1928, by whom he had a son, Peter Joseph, born in 1937 who survived him and is now the head of the Ballynalacken O'Briens.

Turlogh's brother James is a K.C. in Dublin, and was born in 1876, and has a sister Natali, who married Mr. Swift in 1909.

## CHAPTER XI.

### THE O'BRIENS OF GRENAU, WHO WERE EARLS OF LISMORE, AND VISCOUNTS TALLOW, AND BARON OF CASTLE LYONS IN IRELAND, — A BRANCH OF THE GARRIGOGUNNELL O'BRIENS.

After the battle of the Boyne, James II fled to France, whither he was followed by many of the supporters of the Catholic cause and of himself. The complete overthrow that the King had suffered in the Battle and the certainty that William III would tighten the screw on the Catholics and take their lands left them no choice. Among them was Murrough O'Brien of the Carrigogunnell branch of the O'Briens. The Castle of Carrigogunnell is 7 miles from Limerick in the County of Limerick and about a mile and a half from the Shannon. In chapter VIII will be found some record of how it entered the family.

Murrough was an officer of high rank in the Regiment of Clare, becoming in 1706 the Commander of the Regiment. He took part at the Boyne. On the Continent he saw much military service in support of the Stuarts now retired to France and his son was likewise, a soldier of distinction whose services were rewarded by James III.

Murrough fought at Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Artenxo in 1720, Douai, Le Quesnay, and Boncham in 1712, Lande Friberg in 1719. He attained the rank of Field Marshal in the French Army in 1720. Murrough married Jane O'Callaghan of Duhallow who was a daughter of Daniel O'Callaghan of Palace, Co. Cork; his son Daniel was created in 1725 by James III, Baron of Castle Lyons of Ireland and became Secretary of State, and Knight of the Garter, and became the King's Ambassador in Paris in 1745 and in Rome later. Daniel O'Brien received further honours at the King's hands, being created Earl of Lismore and Viscount Tallow, in 1746. In 1735 he had

married Margaret O'Brien his third cousin, who was living in Paris, as his widow in 1763.

Daniel was born in 1683 and died in 1759. By the marriage there was born on 18 August 1736 James Daniel O'Brien who succeeded to his father's honours, as 2nd. Earl of Lismore and 2nd Vist. Tallow. He entered the service of the Elector of Bavaria in 1766, but dying unmarried these "Jacobite" titles became extinct. Prior to the granting of the titles above, a somewhat heated correspondence passed between Charles 6th Vist. Clare Marshal of France and Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd Baronet head of the Dromoland O'Briens. The Viscount upheld Daniel's case that his father Murrough, who had fought at the Boyne was a member of the House of Carrigogunnell. Sir Edward stoutly insisted that there was no direct proof of it. Some of this correspondence is in the archives at Dromoland Castle and is interesting as showing that certain proof of ancestry was necessary in advance of a creation by James III and probably more so if the French Court was to accept a title, as an *entrée* to Court circles.

Marshal Viscount Clare (or as he became in 1741 "Marshal Thomond", inheriting the titles from his kinsman as 9th Earl of Thomond upon the 8th Earl's decease in England) was a favorite at Court and his word went some way to settling the question. Clare had obtained from the French Herald's office in Paris a certificate of his own genealogy, which strange to say is vague and ncorrect in parts, as we now know the facts. We have seen that the titles of Lismore and Tallow were granted in 1746 to Daniel in France by the Stuart Court, which held state in Paris, and sent Ambassadors abroad, cherishing the conviction, no doubt, that a turn of the wheel would once again restore their fortunes and kingdom in England. As is known the young pretender made a gallant effort but failed after an initial success in Scotland. And the line was wound up by the death of Henry Benedict Cardinal York.

For a genealogy of this branch of the Carrigogunnell O'Briens, see Chapter VII.

## CHAPTER XII.

### THE INTERMARRIAGES OF THE MACDONNELLS AND O'BRIENS

Since the MacDonnells came to live in the County Clare in the early part of the 17th Century there have been four such inter-marriages in the O'Brien family. As is known it is descended from Cirbre Liffeachair 117th Monarch of Ireland of the line of Heremon the 3rd. son of Milesius, King of Spain and of Ireland. This monarch flourished about AD. 255. His grandson Colla Vais was 121st Monarch whose great great grandchildren were Earc who carried down the line, and St. Teresa, Virgin, whose feast is commemorated on the 8th of July, each year. Earc's tenth in descent was Sorley Thane of Argyll AD. 1140 who died in 1164.

Sorley's son, Randal, founded the Cistercian Monastery of Glasgow, whose son was Aongus (AD. 1211). Randall had two great grandsons, Domhnall (Donnell), whence are descended the MacDonnells, Chiefs of Glencoe, whose grandson Aongus Oge MacDonnell fought at the Battle of Bannockburn in AD. 1314 for Robert Brien, King of Scotland.

Aongus Oge's great grandson was Eoin Mor, who died in 1378 and was Lord of the Isles, marrying as his second wife, Margaret the daughter of Robert II King of Scotland. His sixth in descent was Sorley Burhe who was created Earl of Tyrone in 1543, and died in 1590.

Our genealogical table begins from him in which the four inter-marriages between MacDonnells and O'Briens are shown.

Randall MacDonnell's second grandson was Alexander MacDonnell, from whom were descended the Ulster MacDonnells but with which we are not here concerned.

Of ancient Irish stock the family migrated to Scotland, probably some time in the eleventh century and is found in the early years of the 16th century back in the North of Ireland. The Earl of Tyrone's greatgrandson, Sir James MacDonnell 2nd Bt. of Eanagh married Mary O'Brien the daughter of Daniel O'Brien of Duagh, in Co. Clare, and Mary's sister Honor had married Conor the 2nd. Viscount Clare who had extensive lands in Moyasta and at Carighaholt in the County Clare.

His marriage connection resulted in Sir James obtaining a lease of lands from Lord Clare in the County and particularly at Kilkee and Moye. These lands, no longer now, were until recent years the property of the MacDonnells of Clare. This branch of the family had obtained a foothold in this county for the first time, having lost their patrimony in the North of Ireland.

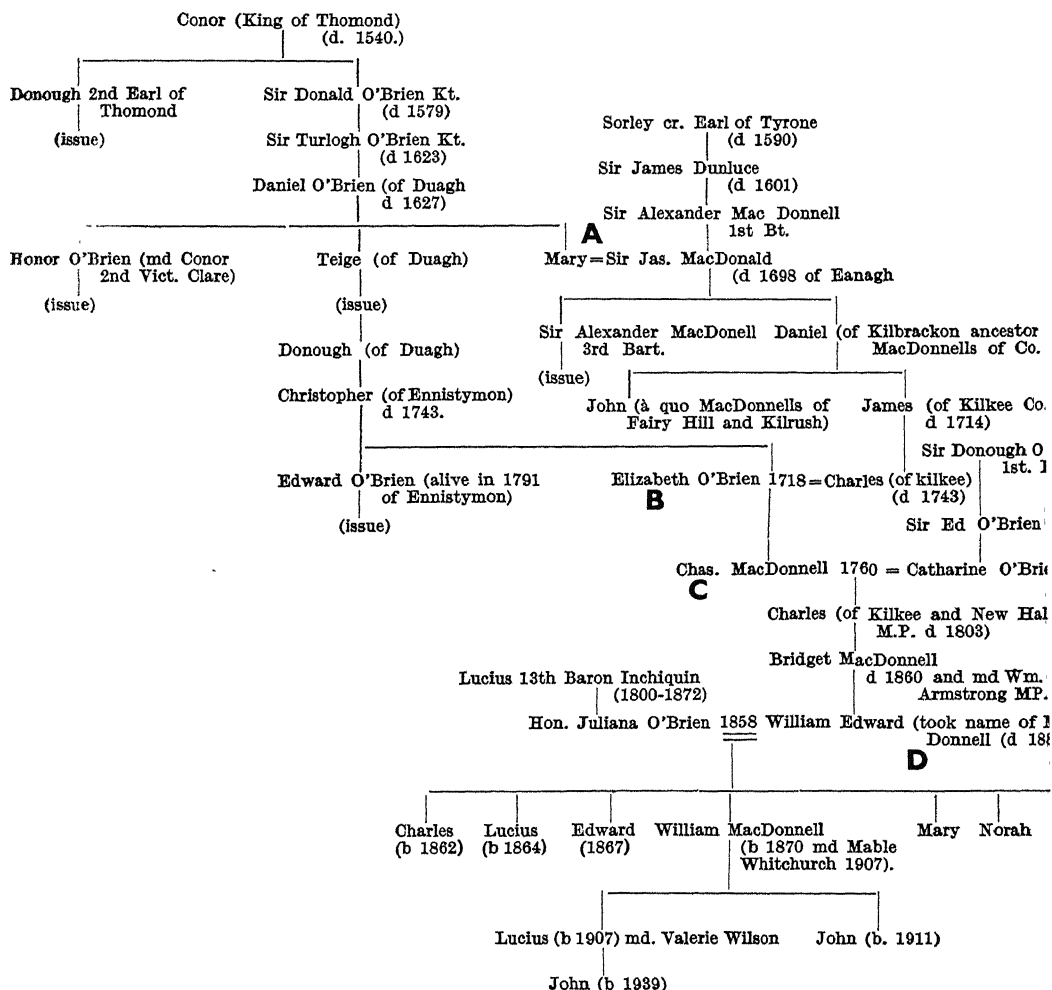
This marriage to Mary O'Brien was the first union with O'Briens. Their eldest son was Sir James Alexander Macdonnell who carried down this line of MacDonnells of Fairy Hill and of Kilrush County Clare. Their second son was Daniel, whence the MacDonnells of Kilkee and Moye. Daniel was of Kilbreckan, and his grandson Charles married Elizabeth O'Brien in 1718, the sister of Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon House, Ennistymon. This Charles MacDonnell died in 1743. This was the second intermarriage. His son Charles, born in 1736, married Catherine O'Brien, daughter of Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart of Dromoland in 1760. He was M.P. for the County of Clare in 1765 and died in 1773. This was the third family union.

By their marriage was a son John, who was born in 1789 and died 1850 unmarried and a daughter Bridget who married Wm. Henry Armstrong, M.P. 1809. She died in 1860 leaving William Edward of Newhall (Killone) and Kilkee. This gentleman assumed the name and arms of MacDonnell on inheriting his mother's estate. His marriage in 1858 to The Hon. Juliana O'Brien eldest daughter of Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin of Dromoland Castle, County Clare, was the fourth and last marriage union of the two families. They had four sons and three daughters, Mary, Norah and Violet.

Charles born 1862, Lucius in 1864, Edward in 1867 and William in 1870, who married in 1907 Mabel Whitchurch and was lately living at Beattock in Scotland, having disposed of the family house, New Hall, which we have elsewhere mentioned is closely situated to the Abbey of Killone five miles from Ennis.

His eldest son Lucius, born 1907 died 1938, a Colonel in the Irish Guards in the 1939-45 Great War, first being severely wounded in the attack against the Germans in occupation of Norway, was later lost in an aeroplane returning from the East with a party of staff officers. He married Valerie Wilson who has since remarried, and left a son John MacDonnell born in 1939. Mr. William MacDonnell's second son was born in 1911 and was a prisoner of war for several years during the war.

**PEDIGREE ILLUSTRATING FOUR MARRIAGES OF THE  
O'BRIEN FAMILY WITH THE MACDONNELLS (A.B.C.D.)**



### CHAPTER XIII.

#### THE WATERFORD O'BRIENS — OF BUNCUMERAGH AND BALLYETRAGH CASTLE, Co. WATERFORD.

There is evidence that this branch flourished until the time of the Cromwellian Rebellion, when its properties were confiscated. Turlogh O'Brien, eleventh in descent from Brian Boroimhe, and brother of Mahon Moynmoy who died in 1369, was the progenitor of this branch. He was younger brother to Mahon, who was progenitor of Turlogh Don his great great grandson, whence the Earls of Thomonds, Clares, Ennistymon O'Briens, Earls of Inchiquin and Marquisses of Thomond and Dromoland O'Briens are descended. This Turlogh O'Brien was called "the bald". He had been inaugurated King of Thomond in 1367 but was deposed by his nephew Brian Catha an Eanaigh three months later. He was expelled from Thomond, but had a good friend in James Fitzgerald, Earl of Desmond, who obtained for his children in 1413 a foedal Estate Settlement of the lands of Cumeragh in County Waterford.

In this year the Earl had obtained their grant from King Henry V, with whom he was a great favourite. The family became known as the O'Briens of Buncumeragh and Ballyetragh of County Waterford.

The genealogy of the branch is obscure ; but we find Antony O'Brien of Cumeragh obtained a pardon from the government in 1549. His son Terlagh lived in 1598 at Cumeragh Castle and his son owned the Castle of that name in 1641.

Derby died in 1666. His son John, of Ballyetragh Castle was taken with his four brothers from the Castle, on Cromwell entering it after its defence, and were all hanged.

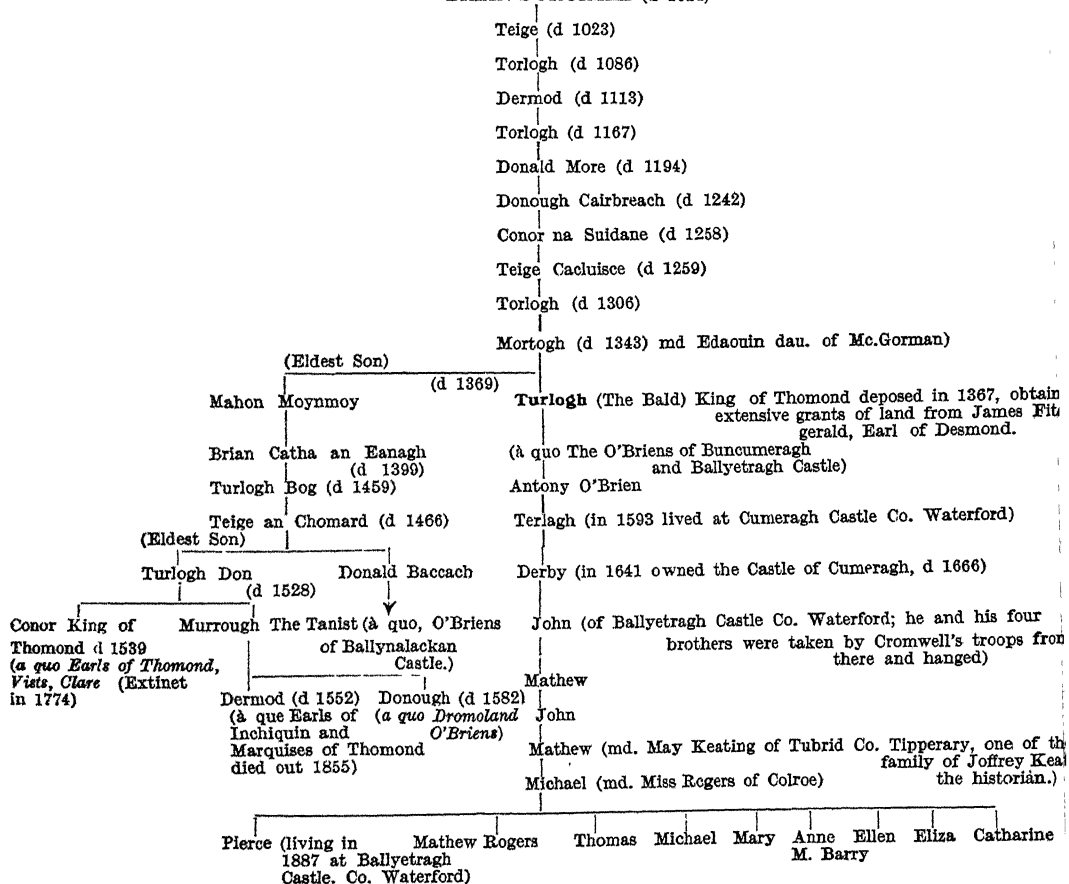
John's son was Matthew, then followed John, whose son was also Matthew.

His son Michael married Miss Rogers of Coolroe, in County Waterford.

Pierce was living at the Castle as late as 1887.

To explain the kinsmanship with the other main branches of the O'Briens, a genealogical table is here set out.

**BRIAN BOROIMHE (d 1014)**



## CHAPTER XIV

### MARSHAL McMAHON — PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC; AN "O'BRIEN" OF THE BLOOD OF BRIAN BOROIMHE.

The title over this chapter may read strangely as it apparently carries a contradiction on the face of it. How can one bearing the name of MacMahon be an O'Brien ? of course he cannot be because the "Mac" and "O" denote that one is the son of Mahon, and the other the son of Brian.

But here the distinction ends, for Mahon's father was Murtogh More O'Brien, third in descent from Brian Boroimhe who started himself the use of surnames to eliminate confusion in family nomenclature. Two christian names used to continue from grandfather to grandson for generations, skipping one generation, in Donoughs, Conors, Murtoghs and Teiges and the like, in a genealogical string; and often in lines of kinsmen. Which practice led to much confusion. Where several in the family bore the same name the question was which Conor, or which Donough, was meant.

This accounted for adjectives being found joined to the name such as Donough, the Fat, who was 2nd. Earl of Thomond; and Turlogh, the bald, the progenitor of the Waterford O'Briens.

This Mahon, the fourth in descent from, and great great grandson of the famous Monarch of Ireland, was so styled by his father Murtogh More O'Brien by the christian name of, Mahon.

After him, all Mahon's descendants have been called MacMahon or McMahon, meaning descendants of Mahon; yet they are as truly of Brian's stock today as those bearing the name of O'Brien.

To explain this is not to tear down the flag of distinction, that this great son of Mahon raised for his kin and name when he became President of the French Republic after a lifetime spent in the service

of the country of his family's adoption. But it is, that the O'Briens may partly share the sunshine of his achievement, and see in him a great scion of their clan.

Mahon's father, Mortogh More O'Brien called the Great, granted the Rock of Cashel to the Church, which had previously been the Royal residence of the Kings of Munster. He was the 32nd. King of Munster, and was King of Ireland. He restored the Monastery of Lismore, where he died in 1119. He was buried at Killaloe in the stone-roofed church by the Cathedral.

Mahon became Prince of Corcobaskin, and had a son called, Murrough More also, Prince of Corcobaskin. Mahon's brother was Donald Gerlumbagh, and became King of the Danes, dying in 1138.

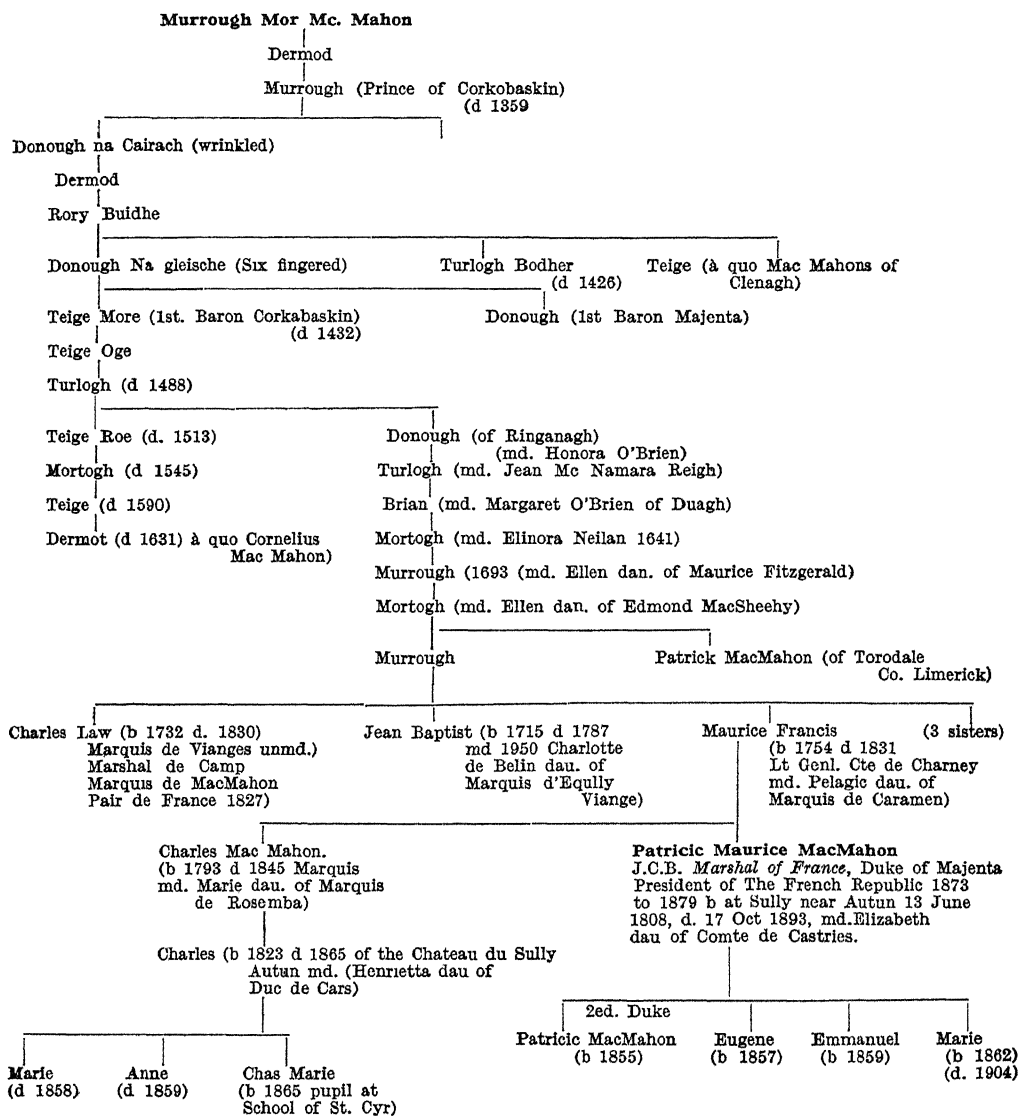
The descent from Murrough Mor McMahon, Prince of Corcobaskin, is obscure with obvious gaps, and if closer genealogical data than what is given here exists, its disclosure will be welcomed.

The Marshal was Governor General of Algiers in 1864; was wounded and captured at Sedan. In 1871 he held command of the Army of Versailles; with which he suppressed the Commune.

He was president of the French Republic from 1873 to 1879. The family had become naturalized in France in 1691.

Here is Mahon's descent from Brian Boroimhe :-

# "PEDIGREE OF MARSHAL MACMAHON"



## CHAPTER XV.

### A FRENCH BRANCH OF THE O'BRIENS DESCENDED FROM MAHON DALL WHO DIED IN 1462

In the previous chapter we have traced the descent of Marshal MacMahon, within the limits of such genealogical data as it has been possible to gather. His branch had become French nationals, and the Marshal had risen to the peak of distinction, and become the President of the French Republic.

In this chapter, we are giving an account of another branch of the O'Briens, descending from Mahon Dall, the second son of Brian Catha an Eanaigh, who was King of Thomond between 1372 and 1399, and died in 1399.

Mahon Dall died in 1462.

It was not till two centuries later, that his descendants are found espousing King James II and the Catholic Cause in Ireland. Owen O'Brien, who married Mary Roche, succeeded his brother Brian, who had died in 1641, having lost a portion of his property by confiscation. Owen's son, Teige O'Brien, was probably at the battle of the Boyne, for about 1692 his estates at Monfin were confiscated and having fled to France had a son Eugene O'Brien, who died in 1744, at Bourgen Bresse. At this point the family seems to have taken up permanent residence in France. Teige had married Catharine Rossitor, and had lived at Balangton in the Barony of Bantry. Besides Eugene, he had three sons, Michael, James and Charles.

The first two became priests, but Charles married and had two sons, James and Patrick, who died without issue. Eugene's sons, Jean Francois O'Brien and Claude Marie Eugene O'Brien, both founded families in France. It is probable that those families are extant, but it has not been possible at present to verify this.

Jean Francois, for instance, had a great grandson Jean Edouard Marie O'Brien, and a great granddaughter Jean Marie Marguerite, born respectively in 1860 and 1863.

And Jean's brother Claude, had a great great granddaughter and great great grandson living in the last part of the nineteenth century in France.

Their names were, Charlotte Jeanne Marie Clotilde O'Brien, and Jacques André O'Brien, born respectively in 1868 and 1871.

At least four of the members of the family served in the French army in the 18th, and early part of the 19th. century. And Jean Francois O'Brien's grandson, Jean Soloman Edward, was Colonel of the 11th regiment of Chasseurs in 1878. He married Mlle. Annedi Terrail in 1834. And the two sons of Claude Marie Eugene were soldiers.

The eldest son Louis Marie Patrice was an officer in the Regiment of Walsh, 1774-87, Irish Brigade.

And the second son, Charles Louis, was an officer in the Regiment de Bouillon. 1774-1817.

The grandson of this Charles Louis O'Brien, named Louis Etienne Patrice, was born in 1834, and was at the Bourge Military School of St. Cyr in 1852.

He was sous-lieutenant in 1854 in the 2nd. Regiment of Cuirassiers, and was in the infantry Guard in 1863, retiring from the French army on 19th March 1864. Louis Etienne married Jeanne Marie Charlotte de Ferrier de Santant.

The second grandson of Charles Louis O'Brien was Charles Marie Athanese O'Brien who was born in 1842, and married Mlle. Varreni de Tenade.

This French branch of the O'Briens were possessed of lands of Towgarrow and Monfin, in the days of Mahon Dall, and held them continuously from the middle of the 15th century until the middle of the 17th century. Mahon's grandson Brian Cherlaig was Prince of Dunster, and Brian's two sons Cathir Dubh, and Owen were respectively Lord of Dunster and Lord of Towgarrow and Monfin.

Cathir's son succeeded to both lordships, and his grandson Donell Owre was living in 1581 at the Castle of Monfin, now a ruin near Ferns.

This Donell and his two brothers Gerald and Owen Bane were killed that year in Ireland in the war against Queen Elizabeth.

There is a reference to Owen Bane's son, Teige, living in Wexford in the Lambeth MS. Donell Owre's eldest son Brian who carried down the main line, died in 1614, leaving James who was born in 1587 and died in 1617.

It was this James who was mentioned earlier in this chapter, whose son Brian died without issue, having lost some of the family estates by confiscation.

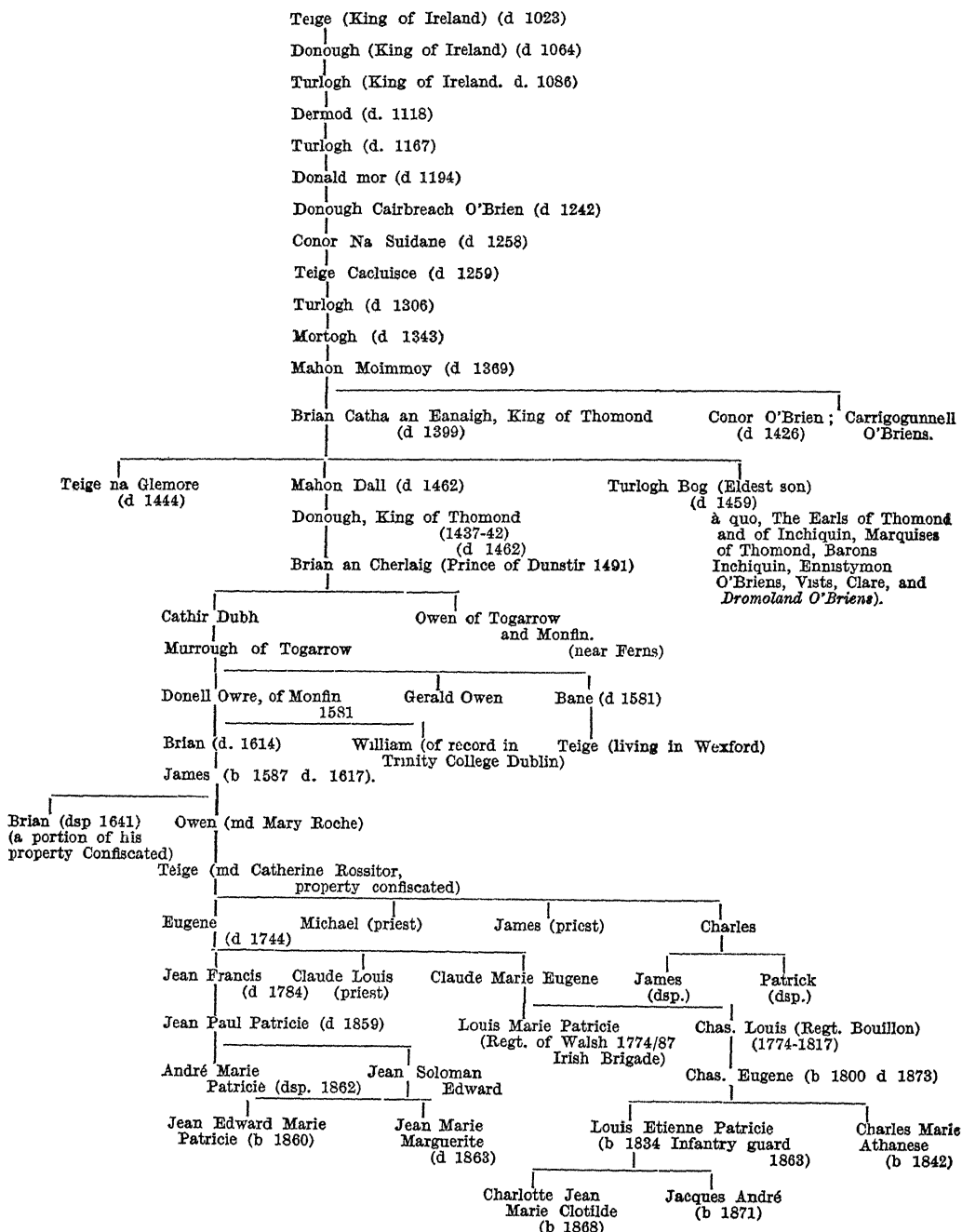
Donell Owre's second son William O'Brien, is mentioned in the records of Trinity College, Dublin.

It appears from the situation of the estates of which this branch of the O'Briens were possessed, that its patrimony was in the Counties of Wexford and Waterford. Mahon Dall reigned in Thomond 5 years and 6 months, when he was dispossessed by his brother, Turlogh. He had a son Donough, who on the death of his uncle Turlogh, was proclaimed King of Thomond : he had possessed the throne only two years, when (though we find him the natural and tanistic heir) he was dispossessed of his dominions by faction, and was obliged to seek refuge and settlement beyond the Shannon. His descendants were then styled Siol Mbrian Debiortha.

To facilitate the understanding of the facts here narrated, there is given on the next page a genealogical table showing the descent from Brian Boroimhe to Mahon Dall, the progenitor of the line.

# "PEDIGREE OF A FRENCH BRANCH OF THE O'BRIENS"

BRIAN BOROIMHE (MONARCH OF IRELAND) (d 1014)



## CHAPTER XVI.

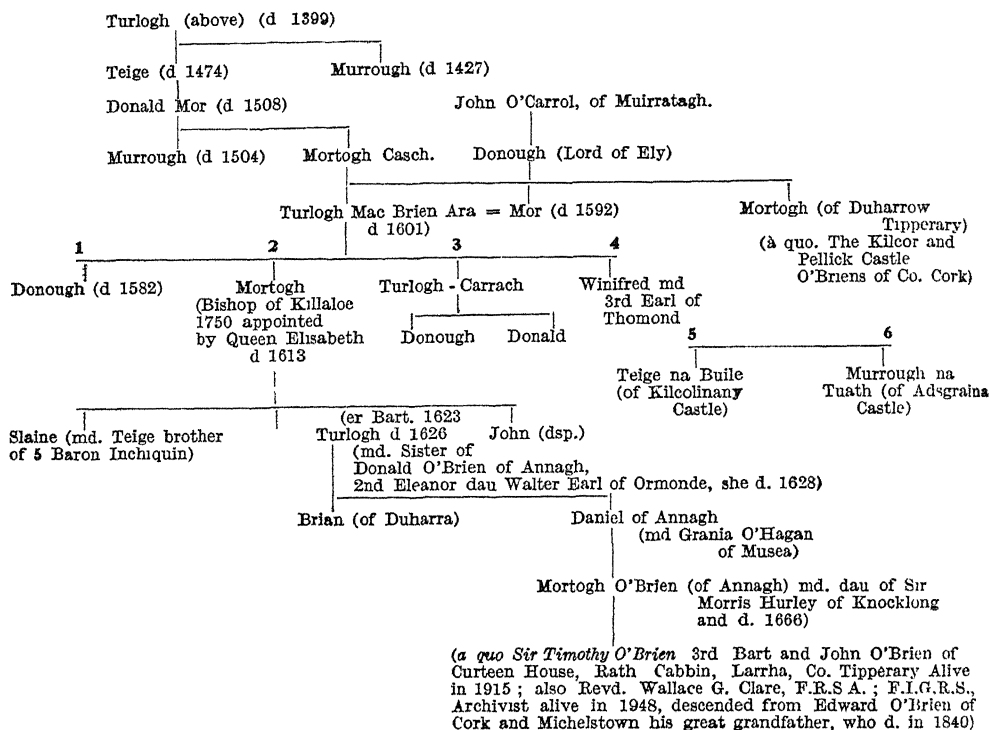
### THE O'BRIENS OF ARA — TIPPERARY — INCLUDING THE O'BRIENS OF LOHORT CASTLE, Co. TIPPERARY AND THE KILCOR AND PELLICK CASTLE O'BRIENS, OF Co. CORK.

Brian Ruahd, forty-first King of Thomond, who died in 1277, was the progenitor of this line. He was murdered by DeClare in Bunratty Castle in treacherous circumstances that have been already described. Later Bunratty Castle became the stronghold of The Earls of Thomond. Brian Ruahd was the younger son of Conor na Suidane and brother of Teige Caoluisce who carried down the descent of the main line of O'Brien to Turlogh Don. He was driven from the West of the Shannon and settled in Ara in what is now part of the County of Tipperary.

His son Donald O'Brien married Margaret, the daughter of Turlogh Duff MacMahon, and had three sons; Donough, who was King of Thomond in 1313, when his interests West of the Shannon were restored to him, and died in 1317 at Corcomroe in County Clare; Donal, of whom we have no record; and Brian Bane, who lived in Ara, and married the daughter of Henry Burke in 1318. Brian, who died in 1350, left a son Murrough na raithnidh, who married More, the daughter of O'Kennedy of Ormonde, and died in 1683, leaving a son Torlogh, who married Honor, daughter of Barry Oge of Butterant, and died in 1399.

The family pedigree thence runs as follows :-

## PEDIGREE OF THE O'BRIENS OF ARA



From the plan will be seen, that the Kilcor and Pellick Castle O'Briens of County Cork, descend from Mortogh O'Brien, younger brother of Turlogh McBrien Ara ; and The Lohort O'Briens, whose distinguished head is Sir Timothy O'Brien, Bart, are from Mortogh of Annagh, descended from Turlogh McBrien Ara, Mortogh's elder brother. The Lohort O'Briens rank senior to the Kilcor and Pellick O'Briens, whose common ancestor was Mortogh Casch. On the island of Inis Cattrá on Lough Derg is a monument to the memory of Sir Turlogh O'Brien Bart, and his wife Eleanor, daughter of Walter Earl of Ormonde, where they were buried. He died in 1626 and she 2 years later. It was erected by his sister Lady Slainey MacO'Brien.

“THE KILCOR AND PELLICK O'BRIENS” :-

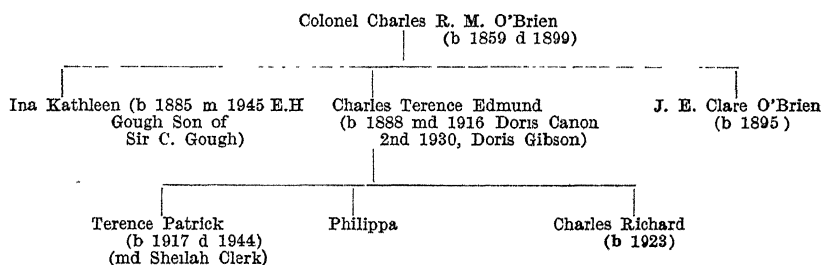
This branch of the family, resident now in England, has flourished exceedingly and has had several distinguished members particularly in the 19th Century, and the first half of the 20th.

Public servants and army officers with successful careers at home and abroad. There has only recently died Brigadier General Edward Donough O'Brien, C.B., who had spent the whole of his career in the Army, 14th Hussars. He was born in 1858, and died in 1945, at the advanced age of 87. He was active and energetic, till the last two years of his life and took an immense interest, as had his elder brother Terence H.J. O'Brien, who died in 1891, in his family's history.

General O'Brien married in 1890 Miss Florence Wheeler, who survives him. His eldest son Terence Donough was killed in the war of 1914-1918, which was a great grief to him, but he leaves a daughter Eileen, born in 1893, who married in 1917 Air Marshal Gossage, and they have a boy Terence Leslie, born in 1918. Their second boy, Peter Leslie, born in 1919 died in 1940.

General O'Brien's younger brother was Lt. Colonel Charles R.M. O'Brien, born in 1859, married Ina Harrison in 1883 and died in 1899. He had married secondly Beatrice Elphinstone, daughter of Sir H. Elphinstone, 3rd Baronet. By the 2nd marriage was a daughter, Norah, born in 1903, died in 1904, Rosamond born in 1904; and Patricia born in 1906.

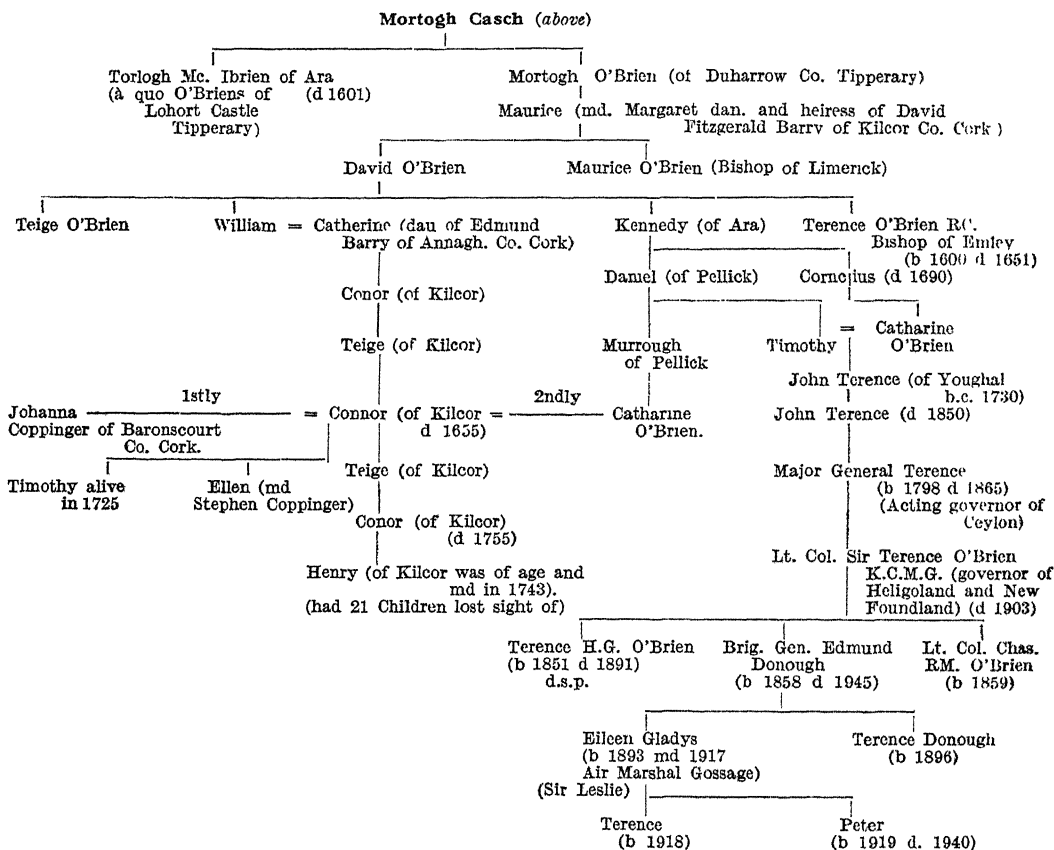
By his first marriage :-



The father of the General and of Lt. Col. Charles O'Brien, was a distinguished army officer, Lt. Col. J.T.N. O'Brien, who became Governor of Heligoland and Newfoundland and a K.C.M.G. He died in 1903.

His father was also, a soldier, becoming a Major General; Terence O'Brien, born in 1798, and died in 1865. He married Catharine Collins.

Here is given the line of descent from Mortogh Casch to Major General Terence O'Brien in seven generations :-



Connor the son of William O'Brien above, married Ellen (daughter of Sarsfield of Sarsfield Court, Co. Cork). His son Teige married Margaret O'Callaghan, of Bantyre, Co. Cork. Teige's son Connor married twice, and Henry, whose 21 children are lost sight of, married in 1743.

The Kilcor Estates, came to the family through the marriage of Maurice O'Brien to Margaret Barry, heiress of David Fitzgerald Barry of Kilcor, Co. Cork.

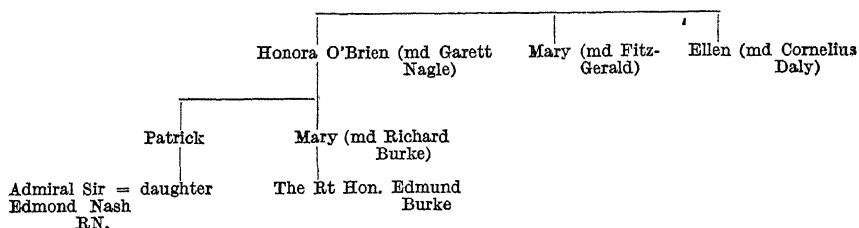
They remained in the family till 1843, for two centuries. Maurice O'Brien's great nephew, the brother of William O'Brien, Kennedy O'Brien of Ara, purchased Pellick in Co. Cork, from David Lord Butterant about 1613, and his son and grandson, Daniel and Murrough, continued possessed of them. It is probable that they remained with the family to a later period, since Murrough's brother Timothy's children were buried in the family vault at Rathcormac, Co. Cork, which had been the family burial ground of the Kilcor and the Pellick O'Briens for years.

It is about 3 miles distant from each, Kilcor and Pellick Castle. Timothy's eldest son Rev. M. O'Brien and his third son Thomas were buried in the family vault at Rathcormac according to the records.

Timothy O'Brien had married his first cousin Catharine, daughter of Cornelius O'Brien. She had four brothers and three sisters.

Thomas whose son became Rt. Rev. Bishop John O'Brien; Cornelius, William and Timothy; of whom we have no record.

Her three sisters were :-



From which it appears that, the famous lawyer and statesmen, Edmund Burke's grandmother was an "O'Brien".

Terence O'Brien, R.C. Bishop of Emley, whose name is in the above genealogical table, was executed at Limerick on 31st. October 1651, by order of General Ireton at the siege of Limerick. And, Teige O'Brien in the table, who married Margaret O'Callaghan of Bantyre Co. Cork, had for his guardian, when a minor, Murrough The Burner, 1st Earl of Inchiquin of Rostellan Castle near Cork. In the chapter on the Earls of Inchiquin and Marquises of Thomond we have made long mention of this distinguished general, whom

Charles I. in 1654, created an Earl for his services during the Civil War.

John Terence O'Brien the son of Cornelius and Catharine O'Brien above, was of Youghal, Co. Cork, born about 1730, he married Miss Murphy.

Both he and his wife and two sons were buried in the family vault of Rathcormac, Co. Cork. A monument was erected there to their memory in 1811 by Canon W. O'Brien, D.D. his nephew.

This Terence had five sons; we have mentioned John Terence, who died in 1850, and Revd. M. O'Brien and Thomas O'Brien, but the Revd. W. and Aiden O'Brien should be mentioned.

First of all, the Revd. M. O'Brien was Rector of Castletown Roche, Co. Cork, was educated in France, and was buried in the family vault at Rathcormac, as had been his brother Thomas. Thomas married Catharine Dawkins, and lived at Rockvale, Co. Cork. He was born about 1772.

The Very Revd. W. O'Brien, D.D. was likewise educated in France, became Roman Catholic Canon of Doneraile, and Vicar General of the Diocese of Cloyne. He visited Rome in 1824, and died in 1834, being buried at Doneraile Church. Aiden O'Brien was in the Spanish Army, and is lost sight of.

Thomas had 3 daughters; Jane; Catharine; both died unmarried; and Ellen who married in 1845 her cousin Major Donough O'Brien. From this union were two daughters and a son Thomas, who was born in 1853 and died in 1876. Ellen was born in 1849; and Amelia was born in 1852 and died in 1893.

Their uncle Dr. John Terence O'Brien, son of his namesake above, was a physician, was born at Kilworth, Co. Cork, about 1770. He served in Holland 1793/94, and died in 1858. He was buried in Brompton Cemetery, London. He married Miss Isemonger of Guernsey in 1795.

Dr. John Terence had eight children, besides the Major General Terence in the plan. Four were sons, and four were daughters.

Following the Major General who was born in 1798, and died at Suez in 1865, came Colonel John O'Brien, born in 1804, died in 1852. He married Helen Cummings and died in Barbados.

Then Major Donough O'Brien, born in 1806 married his cousin Ellen O'Brien in 1845, daughter of Thomas O'Brien, and died in Bombay in 1855.

Then Major R.S. O'Brien, born in 1810, died in London 1880; and Surgeon E.H. O'Brien, born in 1818, died at Karachi 1849.

Mary, Amelia and Maria all died unmarried, Mary in 1850, and Maria in 1891. The only married daughter was Margaret, who married Capt. Campbell in 1839, and died in 1882.

The Major General, like his father, had a quiverful of children; five sons and four daughters :-

The eldest Lt. Col. Sir F. Terence O'Brien, K.C.M.G., whom we have mentioned as a distinguished servant of the State, married Philipa Eastgate in 1853; and secondly Victoria Fane in 1880; was governor of Heligoland and Newfoundland, and died in 1903.

HIS YOUNGER BROTHERS WERE :-

Col. E.D.C. O'Brien, born in 1841, married Annie Vail;

Major R.S.T. O'Brien, born in 1844, and died unmarried in 1890;

Lieutenant Colonel John L.E. O'Brien, born in 1840, married Miss Steele in 1885, and died 1914.

William O'Brien, born in 1845, died in 1904.

HIS SISTERS WERE :

Helen O'Brien, who married Capt. Kindersley in 1867, having had issue ;

Amy O'Brien, who married in 1870 General Sir R. Harrison leaving issue ;

Alice O'Brien, who married Hilton, leaving issue ;

Florence O'Brien, who was born in 1852.

“THE O'BRIENS OF LOHORT CASTLE”.

This branch, whose head is now Sir Timothy O'Brien, 3rd Baronet, claims descent from the Ara O'Brien, Torlogh (Mac I. Brien), son of Mortogh Casch, the common ancestor of this branch, and of the O'Briens of Kilcor and Pellick Castle. Turlogh's brother was Mortogh O'Brien of Duharra, Co. Tipperary, from whom we have seen come the latter branch.

Timothy O'Brien of Tipperary, settled in Dublin early in the 19th century, he married a daughter of Timothy Madden of County Galway, and his son Timothy who was born in 1787, was M.P. for Cashel, and became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1844 and 1849. He died in 1862. He was created a Baronet in 1849.

Sir Timothy had three sons; Sir Patrick O'Brien, 2nd Bart. who died without issue in 1895. He was born in 1823, was M.P. for

Dublin from 1852 to 1885. He married Ida Parlby widow of Lt. Gen. Jas. Perry; John, who died in 1869 (3rd son); and Timothy O'Brien, (2nd son) who died in 1869, leaving the following issue :-

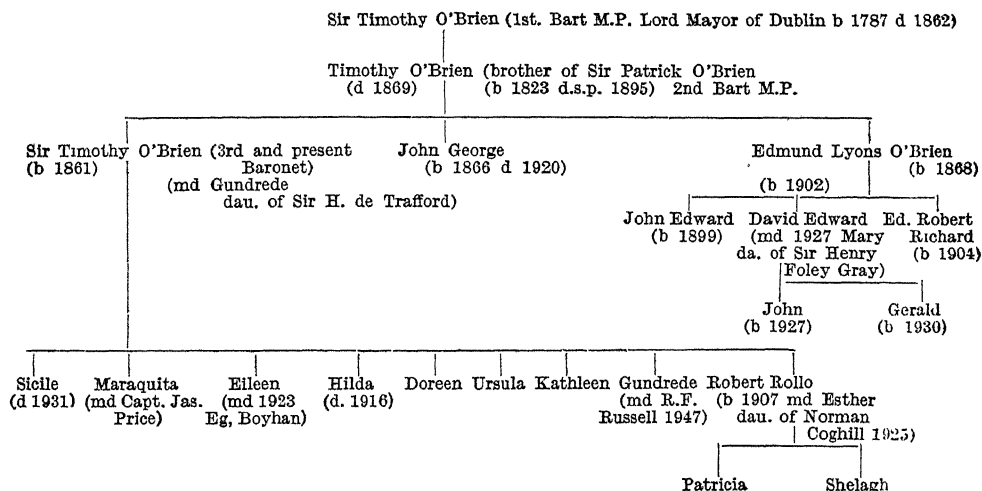
Sir Timothy O'Brien, 3rd Bart. born in 1861. (The head of the family).

John George (b. 1866 d. 1920)

Edmund Lyons O'Brien, born in 1868, of Lakefield, Fithard, Co. Tipperary.

The latter married in 1897 Audrey Townshend, daughter of David Crawford, of New York, and had issue.

The genealogical table of Sir Timothy O'Brien, 1st Bart may be thus set out :-



John Edward, son of Edmund Lyons O'Brien, married in 1928, Moira, eldest daughter of Capt. Robert Brassey, of Cottesbrooke Hall, Northants.

It may be of interest to point out that this branch supports a rather different shield and crest from that borne by the senior line of O'Brien.

The Arms are, "A field Argent, three lions passant guardant per pale gules and azure armed or, all within a border-vert.

The Crest :- "From a Castle Argent in flames, a naked arm embowed grasping a sword proper".

The Arms of Lord Inchiquin are :- "Ruby, three lions passant guardant in pale, party per pale, topaz and pearl".

The Crest :- "On a wreath, a naked arm issuing from a cloud, brandishing a sword all proper".

The Supporters :- "two lions guardant, party fess, topaz and Pearl". The principal difference in the shield being that the Lohort Castle O'Briens' shield is surrounded with a green (vert) border, and the field is argent.

Lord Inchiquin's field is ruby (gules). As to the crest, there is no castle in flames, whence issues the naked arm.

The present holder of the title was a famous sportsman in his time, playing cricket for the Gentleman of England, and was reputed one of the hardest hitters and best batsmen of his time.

He did much to encourage cricket in Ireland, a member of the Na Shulagh Cricket Club and the Zingari, and many other clubs, including the M.C.C. Some years ago, he captained an Irish Cricket team, under the auspices of the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Lord Cadogan which visited England, and played a round of matches, including those against the M.C.C., Cambridge University, and Oxford University.

His son, Robert Rollo, takes a great interest in his family's history. Since Lohort Castle was burned during the disturbances in Ireland, Sir Timothy and his son have lived much of their time in England.

Now the family is known, as the O'Briens of Borris in Ossory, in Queen's County. The present baronet married in 1885 Gundrede, daughter of Sir Humphrey de Trafford, 2nd Bart. There were two sons, and eight daughters of the marriage. His great grandfather settled in Dublin early in the last century, and, after catholic emancipation, became one of its most prominent merchants. His son was especially elected Lord Mayor to receive Queen Victoria on the occasion of her first visit, when he was created a baronet on 25 September 1849.

He married in August 1821, Catharine 4th daughter of Edward Murphy, of Flemingstown, Co. Dublin, and had issue : Sir Patrick, who was 2nd Baronet and died without issue. The present baronet is his nephew. He owns Grangewilliam, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, besides Lohort Castle, at Mallow, Co. Cork.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE LEMENEAGH AND DROMOLAND O'BRIENS.

*The fifth and now senior line from Turlogh Don, who died in 1528.  
Lemeneagh was sometimes spelt Lemeneh.*

Conor King of Thomond, the eldest son of Turlogh Don died in 1539; his youngest brother, Murrough, known as the Tanist succeeded him in preference to Conor's son, Donough, who was a minor. With power in his hands, and after initial resistance to the urgent pressure from the King of England's lord deputy, Murrough was prevailed upon against much opposition from his family to consider a surrender to Henry VIII. Murrough, in his brother's lifetime had strenuously opposed the English attempt to subdue the family into submission, and his brother, Conor, had rendered every possible support in his power to Silken Thomas Fitzgerald, in his rebellion against Henry VIII. After Fitzgerald's defeat, Murrough entered Thomond and got protection from Conor, while feverish preparations were set on foot to obtain a ship to take Fitzgerald to Spain.

To punish Conor O'Brien for this offer of succour, Lord Leonard Grey, the Lord Deputy, was ordered to bring Conor into submission.

He was directed to bind King Conor by indenture, to renounce the Pope's supremacy, to acknowledge in its stead that of Henry, to agree to contribute to the expenses of the Government, and to send a certain quota of men to every hosting of the Royal troops. Conor yielded and the Deputy had to proceed no further into Thomond than Limerick, where Conor met him in July 1537, and agreed to all his terms. It can be said of Murrough, that he stoutly opposed the terms offered to his brother, who had even gone so far as to help the English to subdue him, breaking down his bridge over the Shannon at O'Briens-Bridge for his opposition to Conor's plans for surrender.

However, two years later Conor died, and Murrough who had stood tanist to him, became the last King of Thomond. His first act on obtaining the chieftainship was to join Con O'Neill and Manus O'Donnell in a confederacy against the English Government. Their plans, however, were frustrated by Sir William Brereton.

Con O'Neill made his submission to the Deputy in December 1541, which exercised a profound effect on Murrough, who gave way and was prepared to consent to the curtailment of his authority west of the Shannon, and to yield to pressure of circumstances. Murrough, as we have seen, finally made a complete capitulation to King Henry at Greenwich in AD. 1543.

The circumstances which resulted from this surrender are well put by Mr. James Frost, M.R.I.A. in his, "History and Topography of the County of Clare" :-

"Before 1543 the natives were masters of the land of their birth. Each sept and each individual of the sept enjoyed his property absolutely free from any control of a man calling himself his landlord. The Church of the people too, had its rights clearly defined, and enjoyed the lands bestowed upon it by the munificence of pious benefactors in former days.

"By the establishment of the rule of England all this was changed, and the endeavour to subdue the people, and bring them under the British system of land tenure, was the cause of a sanguinary struggle between the rival races, that lasted till the time of Cromwell and William III.

"In their preliminary movement to draw Thomond into subjection the English Council proceeded very cunningly. They resolved to buy over O'Brien to their interests, by the offer to him of enormous bribes. They saw that, if he could once be seduced, the other and smaller Chieftains would follow.

"Acting on these views, they tendered to him the ownership in fee-simple, and to the exclusion of all the rest of the world, of the lands out of which he had received tribute as chief King, but to which he could lay no claim, as owner in our sense of that term. They further offered him the lands of the Abbeys, then lately suppressed, together with the inappropriate ownership of the tithes of the parishes, to which the King claimed the right of presentation.

"Such proposals", continues Mr. Frost "were too tempting to be refused, and Murrough, who, in his capacity of Tanist, had succeeded to the Chieftainship on the death of his brother Conor, gave intimation of his readiness to enter into negotiations with the King, with a view to the surrender of his authority.

"His first step was to write to Henry VIII, through the Lord Deputy, St. Ledger, proffering his allegiance, and praying for pardon for himself and his adherents for the assistance they had granted

"Silken Thomas, and again, to the Chieftains of the north in their attempt to drive the foreign enemy out of that country."

"He proposed to give up his claim to tribute from all lands lying on the east side of the Shannon, and as an equivalent, he embodied in his request the other privileges, and demands already adverted to, to wit, a grant in fee simple of all lands to which he could lay claim from ancient usage; authority to govern Thomond according to the Kings laws; the right to all the lands of the suppressed livings, as well as to all church patronage, except the appointment of Bishops. He further offered to give up the title of "The O'Brien" and to take that of an earl, with the privilege of sitting in Parliament. "All his demands" says Frost, "were acceded to, and he was summoned over to the English Court at Greenwich to receive the investiture of his earldom".

Mr. Frost is disposed to attribute the sordid motive of gain as the principal one actuating Murrough O'Brien in surrendering to King Henry. Certainly, there were some advantages of a tempting nature held out to him to induce a change of mind; but there was an immense prestige to be handed over of a long and glorious past as the price.

Murrough was himself the 57th. King of Thomond, and his ancestors in the past had held the monarchy of Ireland for a hundred and fifty years. We prefer to think that the constant pressure on the heads of the O'Brien family for half a century or more to submit to English rule and authority, threats to deprive them of their lands and liberty and monasterial properties, which their forbears had founded and magnificently endowed in the past from the highest religious motives, rendered any further resistance intolerable; and that the final surrender to King Henry in 1543 at Greenwich, embodying terms that speak for themselves for severity, was the culminating date in the family history beyond which resistance was useless. If this is the correct interpretation of what happened, it is easy to see, that the simultaneous acceptance of titles of honor from the Sovereign, which no doubt loomed large and generous in that monarch's mind, was to the O'Brien of the day, whose family had held royal status in Thomond for a thousand years, and the monarchy of Ireland for a hundred and fifty years in the past, involved a great sacrifice besides a descent in social status.

Murrough O'Brien and his descendants had forced upon them the relinquishment of their religious faith. His great ancestor, Cathan Fionn, 14th. King of Munster, had welcomed St. Patrick to Ireland in the fifth century, and been baptized by the Saint near Limerick in

AD. 420. Some years later his son Eocha Bailderg was baptized by him, whose grandson Aodh Caomh, 17th. King of Cashel and Munster, founded the Church of Killaloe, the first christian church in Ireland.

This Murrough was compelled to abandon his religious faith and tradition of a thousand years, and to accept the newlyfounded protestantism of Henry's time.

Murrough's descendants and those of his family, whom he could influence, were to forego the name of "O'Brien", to cease wearing their native costume, and the heir of the Thomonds and the Tanist's own sons, were to be brought up in the English Court, tradition and language.

The acceptance of such terms can hardly have been actuated by motives of gain. The titles of Earl of Thomond, and Baron Inchiquin, and the title of Baron Ibrikan, then granted to the Tanist's nephew, Donough, son of King Conor, were unlike peerages that are given for services rendered to the crown, but were, in fact, part terms of surrender.

The proceedings at the ceremony of surrender that took place at the Palace at Greenwich in 1543, and correspondence that took place immediately preceding the event are set out in the State Papers,

*State Papers No. 370. Vol. 3. p. 395 :-*

This is an extract relative to Murrough O'Brien and his nephew Donough. A letter from the King to the Lord Deputy and Council :-

"We be pleased that O'Brien, cumming in and doing his dewtie, "shal be Erle of Thomonde, and that our goode servant Donough "O'Brien shal be also create a Baron, by such name as you shall think "expedient. But you must remember, that the heire of the Erle of "Thomond, from henceforth, must abyde his tyme to be admitted as "a member of our Parliament, till his father or parent be deceased, "and to be only an hearer ; standing bare-headed at the barre, beside "the Cloth of Estate, as the young Lordes doo here in our Realme of "England".

*State Papers No. 389. Vol. 3. p. 453. :-*

The Lord Deputy and Council of Ireland to King Henry the 8th :-

"After our most humble and bounden duties. It may please "your most Excellent Majestie to be advertised, that your highness, "servante, Sir Donough O'Bryen, according to his former promise,

“repaireth at this instant, in the company of his unkle the Lord O’Brien,  
 “to doo his dutie to your Majestie, and to recognize his humble obe-  
 “dience to the same. And for that he is a gentleman of a hardy cou-  
 “rage, and one that of long time hath right faithfully served your  
 “Highness, we truste that his accesse unto your Majestie, with the  
 “sight of your Princely magnyficence, and the savouring also of your  
 “most kingly bountie, shal totally confirme him to good cyvility and  
 “order, whereunto he is more given of his own inclination.....  
 “The said Donough is a very towarde man, and much willinge to gra-  
 “tify your Highness with his service, as any we have seen of the sorte  
 “of Irishmen, and hath behaved himself accordingly.

“There repaireth in his company to visit your Majestie, one  
 “O’Shaghnes, a goodly gentleman dwelling betwixt Thomonde and  
 “Connaught. We know no suete he hatth to your majesty, but  
 “only to see your highness, and to take his land of your Grace, and  
 “be your subject as he saithe.

“And for because the same Sir Donough shulde not be una-  
 “companyed, he desired to have your servante James Sherlocke  
 “in his company, to whom we have given lycence according his said  
 “desire ; which James can well speak the language to interprete the  
 “same to your Highnes. And thus we beseech Almighty God to  
 “preserve your Moste Excellent Majestie in long and prosperous  
 “healthe.

“At your Grace’s City of Dublin, the 15th of May, the 35th.  
 “yere of your Highnes Most victorious Raigne.

“Signed. Ant Senleger ; John Allen ; James Ormonde,

“and Ossor. Edward Miden ; Gerald Aylmer, Justice ;

“James Bath, Baron ; Thomas Cusake, Mag. Rot ; Thomas Houth,

“Justice ; John Travers ; Ed. Barnet, Dean”.

Letter of the Lord Deputy and Council of Ireland to Henry  
 the 8th.

*State Papers No. 391. Vol. 3. p. 460 (Extract) :-*

“Finally, for that there is no sterling money to be had within  
 “this your Realme, these gentlemen, which now resorte to your High-  
 “nes, were utterly dys-furnished of money to bryng them thither, I,  
 “your Majestie’s Deputie, lent O’Brien an hundred pounds sterling,  
 “in harp grotes, in default of other money, whiche I have delivered  
 “by your Treasurer, and Donough O’Brien hathe likewise delivered  
 “to him an hundred marks sterling, to your Grace’s use, beseeching  
 “your Majestie to be so good and gracious Lord to them, as upon  
 “the sight of your said Treasurer’s bill, testifying the receipte of the  
 “said sums, they may have thereby your Majestie appointment ; other-  
 “wise, they be utterly disappointed, nor other shift could they have  
 “here”.

“And thus we beseech Almighty God, etc

"At your Grace's City of Dublin, the 15th of May, the 35  
"year of your Highnes moste victorious Raigne."

Signed as the foregoing letter.

Creations of the Earls of Thomond, and Clanricade, and of  
the Baron of Ibrickane, from the paper in the British Museum, Titus  
B. XI leaf 388 :-

"On Sunday the 1st day of July at the King's manor of Green-  
"wich, in the 35th year of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th  
"was the creation of 2 earls and a Baron of Ireland, whose names  
"were these :-

"The first, Murrough O'Brien, created Earl of Thomond.

"The second, William Burgh, created Earl of Clanrycard.

"The third, Donoghe O'Brien, created Baron of Ybre-

"ckan, in the manner and form following :-

"First, the Queen's closet at Greenwich was richly hung with  
"cloth of arras, and well strawed with rushes, and after the King's  
"Majestie were come into his closet to hear High Masse, those Earls  
"and the Baron aforesayde, in company, went to the Queen's closet  
"aforesaid, and thereafter saying of High Masse, put on their rôbes  
"of estate ; immediately after, the King's Majestie being under the  
"cloth of estate, and all his noble Council, with other noble persons  
"of his realme, as well spirituall as temporall, to a great number,  
"and the ambassadors of Scotlande, the Earle of Glencairne, Sir  
"George Douglas, Sir William Hamelton, Sir James Leyremonte, and  
"the Secretary of Scotland, came to the Earle of Tomonde, lead  
"between the Earle of Derby, and the Earle of Ormonde, the  
"Viscount Lisle bearing before him his sworde, the hilt upwards,  
"Gartier before him, bearing his letters patentes ; and Gartier deli-  
"delivered the said letters patents to the Lord Chamberlayne, and  
"the Lord Chamberlayne delivered them to the Great Chamberlayne,  
"and the Lord Great Chamberlayne to the King's Majestie, who took  
"them to Mr. Wrythesly, secretary, to read them openly.

"And when he came to 'Cincturam gladii', the Viscount Lisle  
"presented to the Kinge the sword ; and the Kinge girded the sword  
"about the said Earl Bawdrickwyse, the foresaid Earl kneeling, and  
"the lords standing that lead him.

"And so, the patent read out, the second Earl, being brought  
"into the Kyng's Majesties presence by the two Earls aforesaid, was  
"created there, in everything according to the ceremony of the first  
"Earl.

"That done, came into the King's presence the baron in his  
"kirtell, lead between two Barons, the Lord Cobham and the Lord  
"Clinton, the Lord Mountjoye bearing before him his robe, gartier  
"before him bearing his letters patentes in manner aforesayde, who  
"then proceeded to the King's Majestie, and his highnes received the

“letters patentes in manner aforesaide, and took them to Mr. Pagett, “secretary, to read them openly. And when he came to “investimus” “he put on his robe.

“And so, the patente read out, the Kyng’s Majestie put about “everyone of their neckes a cheine of gould, with a cross hanging “at it, and tooke them their letters patentes, and they gave thanks “unto him. And there the Kyng’s Majestie made five of the men that “came with them, knights.

“And so, the Earls and the baron in order took their leave “of the Kinge’s highnes, and were conveyed bearing their letters “patentes, in their handes, to the Council Chamber, underneath “the King’s Majesties Chamber, appoynted for their dining place “in order as hereinafter followeth:-

“The trumpeters blowing before them ; the officers of arms, “the Earl of Thomond, lead between the Earle of Derby and the “Viscount Lisle ; The Earl of Clanrykard, lead between The Earl “of Ormonde and the Lord Cobham ; the baron Ybrackan, lead “between the Lord Clinton and the Lord Mountjoye, and thus brought “to the dining place.

“After the seconde course, Gartier proclaymed their stiles in “manner following :-

“Du Tres haut et Puissant Seigneur Moroghe O’Brien, comte “de Tomond, Seigneur de Inoicoyne, du royaume de Irelande.

“Du Tres hault et Puissant Seigneur Guillaume Bourghe, “comte de Clannryekard, Seigneur de Down Kelleyn, du royaume “de Irelande.

“Du Noble Seigneur Donoghe O’Brien, Seigneur de Ybrackan, “du Royaume de Irelande.

“The Kinges Majestie gave them their robes of estate and all “things belonging thereto, and payd all manner of duties belonging “to the same”.

*State Papers. Vol. III p. 473.*

Here follows an English translation of the letters-patent creating Murrough O’Brien in AD. 1543 Earl of Thomond :- (Henry VIII to Murrough, King of Thomond)

“The King & c. to all Archbishops, Bishops, Dukes, Marques- “ses, Earls, Viscounts, Barons, Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, “Bailiffs and Officers, and to all our faithful subjects, to whom these “letters-patent shall come, greeting :-

“We trust by the Divine Assistance, not only to adorn, but, “also, to advance the Royal Dignity, by conferring the first and prin- “cipal Honours on men of distinguishable Worth and Bravery ; for “we are of opinion, that our Royal diadem is not more illustrated by “jewels, and precious stones, than strengthened and secured by call- “ing men of virtue and chiefly from among the Nobility to assist us “in Council, and by raising them to the first Honours, to aid in the “better Government of the State.

“Whereas, therefore, Morogh O'Bryen, born in our Kingdom  
 “of Ireland, and truly noble by being of our blood and lineage,  
 “having acknowledged and recognized our sovereignty and right-  
 “ful title to the Crown of that our Kingdom, which he temporarily  
 “claimed as his own and ancestor's Right and Inheritance ; and hav-  
 “ing by petitioning our Royal Clemency, obtained a free pardon for  
 “the same, we think him a fit person whom of our Royal munificence  
 “we ought to dignify and illustrate with the most distinguishable Marks  
 “of Favour and greatest titles of Honour ; and therefore, we have our  
 “special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, raised, dignified,  
 “and created, and do by these presents promote, dignify, and create  
 “the said Morogh O'Bryen, Earl of Thomond, in our Kingdom of  
 “Ireland aforesaid. And we do also grant and give him, by these  
 “presents, the Name, Quality, Style, Title, Honour and Dignity of  
 “Earl of Thomond ; to have and enjoy to same Place and Suffrage  
 “in all Parliaments to be held in our Kingdom of Ireland aforesaid,  
 “in the same manner as other Earls of our said Kingdom now have  
 “or used to have ; together with all the singular pre-eminences, Hon-  
 “ours and Privileges whatsoever to such quality of Earldom in any wise  
 “appertaining or belonging.

“And we do invest, promote, and truly enoble him with such  
 “State, Style, Title, Honour and Dignity, by the usual ceremony of  
 “girding on his sword : To have and enjoy the Name, Style, Hon-  
 “our and Dignity of Earl of Thomond aforesaid, together with Pre-  
 “eminencies, Honours, Suffrages, and other Privileges aforesaid, to  
 “the said Morogh O'Bryen for the term of his life.

“And, we do, also will and by these presents grant, for our-  
 “selves and our heirs, that the same Name, Style, Title, Honour and  
 “Dignity of Earl of Thomond, and all and singular and other Privileges  
 “to the said Morogh O'Bryen above granted and permitted, shall im-  
 “mediately after the decease of the said Morogh O'Bryen be and  
 “remain to our truly and wellbeloved subject Donogh O'Bryen, to  
 “be and held enjoyed by him the said Donough O'Bryen for the term  
 “of his life.

“And we do further by these presents, of our special bounty  
 “and favor, ordain, depute, create and constitute him, the said Morogh  
 “O'Bryen, a Baron of Parliament in our Kingdom of Ireland afore-  
 “said ; and do hereby grant and give him, the said Morogh O'Bryen,  
 “the Title, Name and Style of Baron of Inchiquin, in our Kingdom  
 “of Ireland aforesaid ; as also a place in our Parliaments to be held in  
 “our said Kingdom of Ireland, and all other Rights, Privileges and  
 “Immunities in any wise appertaining to Barons of our said Kingdom  
 “of Ireland, by law, custom, or otherwise ; and we further will, that he  
 “use and enjoy the same as freed and fully to all intents and purposes  
 “as any other Baron of our said Kingdom ever used or enjoyed the  
 “same ; to have and enjoy the said name, Quality, style, and Title of  
 “Baron of Inchiquin, together with all and singular the Honours, Pre-  
 “eminencies, prerogatives, Emoluments, and Privileges whatsoever,

“thereunto in any wise appertaining and belonging, to the said Morogh  
 “O'Bryen, and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. And,  
 “whereas by the accession of Honours, it necessarily follows, that  
 “expenses and incumbrances must increase ; that the said Morogh  
 “O'Bryen may be enabled to maintain and support the Dignity of the  
 “Earl of Thomond for the term of his life ; and that the said Morogh  
 “O'Bryen and his issue male aforesaid, may be able to maintain and  
 “support the said honours of Baron Inchiquin, in a better, or more  
 “decent, and honorable manner, than as a burden in incumbrance :  
 “We, of our usual Bounty, have granted and given, and do by these  
 “presents, for ourselves and our heirs, grant and give to the said  
 “Morogh O'Bryen, all and singular the Forts, Castles, Houses, Manors,  
 “Lands, and Tenements ; all Monasteries suppressed, and all the  
 “Rents, Reversions, and Services thereunto belonging ; all advow-  
 “sons of Churches, Chapels, and Chanceries, all fees military, and other  
 “hereditaments whatsoever, by whatever names they may be known,  
 “which the said Morogh O'Bryen formerly held and enjoyed, or  
 “doth now hold or occupy in Thomond aforesaid, beyond the water  
 “or river of Shannon aforesaid ; excepting, nevertheless, and always  
 “reserving to ourselves, our heirs and successors, that all and singular  
 “the Grants, Advowsons, Rights of Patronages, Archbishoprics,  
 “Bishoprics, and all and singular the Royalties belonging to the crown  
 “in Thomond aforesaid, to be held and enjoyed by the said Morogh  
 “O'Bryen, and the issue male of his body lawfully begotten, be holden  
 “of us and our Heirs by the Right of Knight's Service, without any  
 “other consideration or compensation whatsoever to be rendered, done  
 “or paid to us, our Heirs, or successors, except the service aforesaid ;  
 “and this without fine or fee, great or small, to be rendered, done,  
 “or paid, either to ourselves, or to any other, for our use and emolu-  
 “ment, otherwise than before is mentioned and expressed.

“Witness &c. Dated at our Manor at Greenwich, the first  
 “day of July, in the 35th year of our Reign”.

(“The Irish Compendium or Rudiments of Honour”, 4th. Edition  
 and enlarged, AD. 1745).

Attention is drawn to words of the text of the patent, appearing  
 in paragraph three, particularly to the lines :- “Whereas therefore  
 Morogh O'Bryen being truly noble by being of our blood and  
 lineage”.

Here King Henry acknowledges the Royal kinsmanship between  
 the O'Briens and the Tudors; hence no doubt the privilege said then  
 to have been accorded to Morogh and his descendants, to quarter the  
 Royal Arms of England, three lions passant-guardant, but, in their  
 case, to be half-gold, and half-silver, and to wear the royal liveriest

Elsewhere it has been explained that the Royal liveries were  
 used at the ceremonials at the openings of Parliament ; and as late

as the two Jubilees of Queen Victoria in 1887 and 1897, when the 14th Baron Inchiquin exercised the privilege.

Again, paragraph three of the patent recites that, "Morogh O'Bryen acknowledges and recognizes King Henry's sovereignty "and rightful title to the crown of Ireland, which Morogh had "temporarily" claimed as his own and ancestors' right and inheritance." The gilding of the "surrender" pill, if sweetened by the granting of an Earldom, must have been embittered by the inclusion in the patent of the word "temporarily", seeing that Morogh and his ancestors, from time out of mind, were recognized as holding sovereign rights in Ireland ; and that King Henry had only two years previously, by decree of his Parliament in Dublin, in A.D. 1541, styled himself and his heirs, to be "Kings of Ireland" henceforth, instead of "Lords of Ireland", as hitherto.

The inference to be drawn from the word, "temporarily", was that Kings of Ireland had usurped the Sovereignty from Henry's Tudor ancestors at one time, and that Morogh's act of homage and restoration to King Henry of the Sovereignty, were in the natural order of things. Such usurpation of course had never taken place, and in other circumstances Morogh O'Bryen might quite reasonably, and we believe in accordance with historical fact, have claimed senior kinship to the Tudors, based on the ground that the Tudors were descended from Fergus, first King of Scotland, but the younger son of Erc, monarch of Ireland in the 6th century, from whose eldest son Morogh was descended.

Morogh O'Bryen, this last and fifty-seventh King of Thomond's sense of humour can hardly have rendered him insensible to the obvious travesty of historical fact, in King Henry importing the word "temporary kingship" into the patent, as justification for the latter's assumption of the Monarchy.

The picture of the two kings meeting at Greenwich in AD. 1543, in the circumstances described here, is at Dromoland, and an illustration of it will be found in the book.

Murrough died in 1581; he had been created 1st. Earl of Thomond for life and Baron Inchiquin, heirs male of his body. The latter title is now held by the present Lord Inchiquin, who is the 16th. in descent. He married Eleanor daughter of Sir Thomas Fitzgerald, Knight ; He resided at Inchiquin Castle on the borders of lake Inchiquin in County Clare, and at his castle at O'Briens-Bridge. Mention is made of him in the Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. 41.

p. 319. His second brother Donough had died in 1531, and his sister Slaney who died in 1578 married Brian MacMahon of West Corkobaskin. This Brian was of Carrigaholt Castle ; later it became the property and stronghold of Sir Daniel O'Brien, 1st. Viscount Clare. His brother Teige died in 1533. By an inquisition held in Ennis on the 4th. of June 1599 in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it was found that after Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist, had returned from England, he divided his estates (now held in fee simple and no longer by gavel-kind) among his three sons, as here described :-

"To Dermot, Baron Inchiquin, Derryowen, O'Brien's Bridge  
"Ballycarroll, Ballyharaghan, and part of the lands belonging to the  
"suppressed monastery of Kilshanny; to Teige his second son, he  
"gave Ballinagown (Smithstown), Ballyveaghan, Boncill, Tromroe,  
"and other parts of the church lands of Kilshanny ; to Donogh, his  
"third son, Leameneh, Dromoland, Ballyconneely, Cowillreough,  
"Clonemonhyl, and the lands belonging to the Abbey of Corcomroe.

The same inquisition found that,

"Teige O'Brien of Smithstown died on 28 December in the  
"20th year of the Queen at Inchiquin, leaving issue Turlogh O'Brien,  
"and leaving a widow Honoria O'Brien".

It also found that

"Donough O'Brien, of Dromoland, (who was the Tanist's  
"third son), was attainted of treason on the 28th of September in  
"the 24th year of the Queen's reign" .

It found that

"Teige O'Brien was of Lemaneh" and that, "Turlogh, son  
"of Donough O'Brien was attainted of felony, before a Commission,  
"held at Galway, on the 22nd. of May in the 23rd. year of the Queen's  
"reign, and that at the time of his attainder he was the owner of these  
"lands :- Shomley, Shallee, Doonymulvihill, and Danganbrack".

This Donough O'Brien, the tanist's third son, is the progenitor of the Dromoland O'Briens. The inquisition shows that his father gave him Lemeneagh and Dromoland, where is Dromoland Castle, the present seat of Lord Inchiquin in County Clare. Donough was hanged at the gates of Limerick in 1582 by Captain Mordaunt the marshal, and Sir George Cusack, the sheriff of the County, having surrendered under a letter of protection, which was declared defective. His son Conor and two daughters, being minors were put under the guardianship of Donough 4th. Earl of Thomond their kinsman.

The Lemeneagh and Dromoland estates were not forfeited, but restored to the family, upon confirmation forthcoming that the warrant for Donough's execution was faulty, and his hanging had taken place by an error. The letter of protection had been in order.



*Mary Comtess of Orkney daughter of the 4th Earl of Inchiquin by Anne Comtess of Orkney. She was the wife of the 5th Earl of Inchiquin afterwards 1st Marquis of Thomond.*



*Mary Jephson, wife of James O'Brien, M.P., son of William 3rd Earl of Inchiquin.*



*Donough O'Brien, of Lemeneagh and Dromoland, younger son of the Janist Murrough O'Brien the 57th King of Thomond died 1582.*

*Painted in 1577 on panel.*



*Slaney O'Brien, wife of Donough O'Brien of Lemeneagh and Dromoland, who died in 1582.*

*Painted in 1577, on panel.*

This had an important bearing upon the right of succession to the Barony of Inchiquin which Sir Lucius O'Brien in his claim in 1861 had to contend with in his claim before the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords. Elsewhere, the point is discussed. It was said that there had been an attainder and inconsequence, upon the extinction of the line of Donough's eldest brother Dermod, the barony of Inchiquin could not revert to the younger brother's branch. The contention was dismissed by the Peers on proof that the crown had forgiven Donough posthumously and restored his estates to his son Conor.

There are two small portraits on panel at Dromoland Castle, of this Donough, and of his wife Slaney, in her 28th. year, who was born in 1549. She was the daughter of John MacNamara of Cratelagh, chief of his name.

Donough had fallen a victim to the stern spirit of the times and to the martial law that prevailed, and took no cognizance of forfeitures; the castles and lands of Lemeneagh, Dromoland, Ballyconnelly and other places, including the Abbey of Corcomroe, which were conferred on him by his father, descended to his son Conor and his heirs.

By an inquest held in Ennis on 6th, December 1582 before Nathaniel Smyth, deputy of John Crofton, it was found that

“Donough O'Brien, commonly called Donogh MacMurrough  
“O'Brien, late of Dromoland, was taken in rebellion against the  
“Queen and executed on the 6th, of September 1582, being then owner  
“of the Castle of Ballyconneely, and eight quarters of land, now  
“wasted adjoining the said castle, namely the quarter of Dromoland,  
“of Ballycoughlin, Ballygireen, Lattoon, Rathfolane, and Lytherayne;  
“of the castle and lands of Lemeneh, consisting of three quarters, ;  
“now wasted; of the Castle of Ballygriffy, and four cottages adjoining  
“of the monastery of Corcomroe value at forty shillings; it was also,  
“found that the lands of Donough were forfeited to the Queen Eli-  
“zabeth by reason of the rebellion”.

Donough was buried in the monastery at Ennis, and the Queen's pardon was eventually granted for the benefit of his heirs.

He was succeeded by his son Conor, who married Slaney the eldest daughter of Sir Turlogh O'Brien Kt. of Duagh (see chapter on Ennistymon O'Briens); she was alive in 1634. Boetius Clancy High Sheriff and M.P. for the County of Clare in 1585 presented to Conor the Spanish Armada table, which is now at Dromoland Castle. The family was then living at Lemeneagh Castle, whence

it was brought to Dromoland, when Conor's great grandson, Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart. moved there about 1685.

An account of this table, which came from the captain's cabin of the flagship of the Spanish Armada wrecked on the Clare coast, appears elsewhere in the book. Boetius Clancy died in 1598. He had married Conor's sister, Margaret another sister Fenoli married Owney O'Laughlin of Moyrin, Co. Clare.

Conor O'Brien died on 2nd. January 1603, and was buried in the monastery of Ennis Abbey. His son Donough MacConor, was born in 1595, and was entered as a student at Trinity College, Dublin, as a ward on December 1st. 1614. His kinsman Henry O'Brien, eldest son of Donough 4th. Earl of Thomond of Bunratty Castle, Co. Clare and afterwards 5th. Earl, was at the same time a fellow student at the college, where he is registered as S.P. in 1613. This was only 32 years after the founding and incorporation of Trinity College by Queen Elizabeth in 1581. He married Honora, the daughter of Richard Wingfield of Robertstown, county Limerick ; she was born in 1607 and died in 1637. Her father was born in 1557, and was 58 years of age in 1615. Donough MacConor was knighted by Queen Elizabeth, and died in 1634.

By the marriage were five sons and a daughter, the eldest son Conor, became notorious for his marriage to a remarkable woman called Moira Ruhr; or Red Mary ; of the others we know little.

Donough lived at Tobermaly; Murrough married Amy the daughter of Turlogh O'Brien of Cluonnan; Teige married Miss Cuffe, daughter of William Cuffe ; and Margaret, living in 1698 who married Turlogh O'Brien Fitz Teige of Dromore. Conor, born in 1617 married Mrs Neylan a widow in 1639; her maiden name was Mary MacMahon, daughter of Sir Turlogh or Teige Roe MacMahon Bart.

By their marriage they had Donough O'Brien born in 1642, who was created a Baronet in 1686, and of whom there is much to write ; Teige who married Honora, the daughter of Capt. Edward Fitzgerald of Carrigowrane, who had a son Conor d.s.p., Teige d.s.p. and Mary who married Wilson of Feinagh and had a son Edward who married Miss Bourke ; Honora who was born in 1645 and married Donough O'Brien of Dough (see chapter on Ennistymon O'Briens) ; and Mary born in 1650, who married Donough MacNamara of Ballynacraggy.

These two daughters Honora and Mary were both buried with their mother at Coad Church, near Kilfenora.

Mary MacMahon survived Conor O'Brien her second husband who died in 1651 at Liscronan not far from the walls of the ancestral home of Lemeneagh Castle, killed by the soldiers of Ireton's army on their way to lay siege to it. She married thirdly Captain John Cooper of the English army in circumstances as dramatic as they were fortunate for the O'Brien family. Moira Ruhr as she was known for her red hair was a bold and daring personality.

After her husband Conor O'Brien was killed in 1651 and Ireton's soldiers brought his body to the Castle of Lemeneagh where they lived, and whence Conor had gone forth to give battle, she confronted them at the gate.

She stoutly denied. that it was her husband's body, declaring with some truth that she was unmarried and was free to prove it ; having actually only been a widow a few hours.

She drove, it is said, in her carriage of four horses and richly dressed into Limerick, where was Ireton's headquarters, and demanded a personal interview with the general. This granted she offered to prove the truth of what she had said, and to marry any officer in his army, whom Ireton should put forward.

Taking her at her word, Cornet Cooper volunteered and was selected by Ireton. She married him, thus saving for this branch of the family its very large estates in the County of Clare, which would have been forfeited for her husband's perfidy.

The trick seems to have been subsequently discovered and the lands forfeited just before the end of the Commonwealth, and before the Restoration of King Charles II to the throne ; for an inquest held on the 6th. of October in the 13th. year of the King's reign sets forth in the relative decree that Conor O'Brien and his wife Mary (Moira Ruhr) had been dispossessed by the late "Usurped Powers", which refers to the Commonwealth government.

Mention is also made of Capt. (Cornet) John Cooper, Mary's third husband, and of Conor and Mary's children, mentioned above, Donough, Honora and Mary, who were all minors.

The decree is among the Inrollments of Innocents - Roll 11, p. 35, and the extract that is given here is interesting as showing the lands of the Lemeneagh and Dromoland O'Briens possessed in 1651 by Conor its head, and the same restored to Conor's son, Donough, who left Lemeneagh and took up residence at Dromoland about 1685, subsequently being created a Baronet. Also, as showing that application for the lands to be restored to these minors was lodged by their

mother and Capt. John Cooper, and that Conor and his wife and children were held to have been Innocent Protestants, who had opposed the Commonwealth encroachments in Ireland, and supported the crown. Mary Cooper's jointure money and the two children's charges on the property and estates were held valid.

Abstract of the decree roll 11.p.35 :-

"Inrollments of Innocents.

"Whereas John Cooper of Meelick, County of Clare, Esq. and Mary  
 "his wife, previously widow of Conor O'Brien of Lemeneh, Esq.  
 "on behalf of Donogh O'Brien, the son and heir of said Conor and  
 "of his two daughters Honora and Mary, all three, minors, made  
 "their claim before the late Commissioners for carrying into effect  
 "the Act of Settlement, on the 6th. of October in the thirteenth year  
 "of Charles II, and set forth that Conor O'Brien, in his lifetime, was  
 "owner amongst, other lands of the following, viz :- Leameneh,  
 "Cahermoyle, Caherfadda, Ballymurphy, Clooneens, Moherballanagh,  
 "Ballygriffy, Ardkearney, Aughrim, Ballyportrey, Inchicuolaght,  
 "Derry, Ballyashie, Ballyinsheen, Ballynabunny, Moylegane, Ballyn,  
 "eclane, Gortlahane, Dromulga, Carrownooole, Turlaghmore,  
 "Kiltock, Aglish, Feanmanagh, Tully na chorna, Carrowmadora,  
 "Roughan, Teeska, Leana, Killinaboy, Tubbermaley, Cahermacum,  
 "Moilveane, Poulcoolicky, Fehafane, Caherpolla, Poulaphoria,  
 "Rannagh, Kilmaglassy, Maghouha, Kilnoe, Cragganboy, Tonelegee,  
 "Cortnaglogh, and Maghera".

They further set forth, that,

"said Conor, being so seized, did by his deed of Feoffment, dated  
 "19th. October 1639, in consideration of a marriage between him the  
 "said Conor, and his then wife Mary O'Brien, the daughter of Tur-  
 "logh Roc MacMahon, late of Clonderalaw, Esq., deceased, and of  
 "a sum of one thousand pounds, the portion received by the said  
 "Conor with the said Mary, convey the premises to John MacNamara,  
 "and Turlogh McMahon, to the following uses :- that they should  
 "be seized of Leamaneh, Cahermogler, Caherfadda, Ballymurphy,  
 "Concoms, and Mohorballanagh, to the use of the said Conor O'Brien  
 "and Mary McMahon his wife for their lives, and for the life of the  
 "survivor, remainder to their issue male, in tail male. The trustees  
 "were to raise a sum of one thousand pounds for the first daughter  
 "of the marriage, at her age of sixteen years, and eight hundred pounds  
 "for each of the younger daughters".

They further set forth, that,

"the surviving children of the marriage were Honora, born in November  
 "1645, Mary in 1650, and Donogh".  
 "Conor O'Brien was slain in His Majesty's service, and that the estate  
 "came to Mary, his widow, with remainder expectant to his son Do-  
 "nogh and his heir male ; that they were dispossessed by the late

'Usurped Powers'; that the children were brought up in the Protestant religion; and they prayed to be restored to their property".

A final hearing of this case was had on Friday, the 21st. of August, in the 15th year of Charles II, in open court, and it appeared to the court that Donough O'Brien was, and is an Innocent Protestant, and that his father Conor, was in possession of the premises, on the 22nd of October 1641, a decree was made, giving him the property, saving the rights of Bryan Goodwin, Mat. O'Hea, James Bourke, Teige Kerim, Mat. Griffa, More and James Brody, and William Barry.

This decree signed by the same Commissioners who adjudicated on the claim of John McNamara, when he claimed for Mary (Mrs Cooper) her jointure, before the Court of Claims in 1662. Mrs. Cooper was charged with committing murder in 1642. She pleaded innocence of the charge, and the King's pardon was granted. She was then the wife of Conor O'Brien, whom she had married in 1639. (See Prendergast's Cromwellian Settlement p. 68).

There are three portraits of "Moirá Ruhr" known to be in existence. One painted on panel is at Ennistymon House, the house of the Ennistymon O'Briens. Her daughter Honora married Donough O'Brien of Doogh and Ennistymon, and portraits of Honora and Donough O'Brien her son, afterwards Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart are amongst other family pictures there.

This portrait of her shows that she was of stern appearance, handsome but forbidding. Rubicund of complexion and red haired.

The other two are at Dromoland Castle, one doubtless came there when her son, Sir Donough, moved to live at Dromoland, and probably brought his mother's portrait with him.

The other only recently came there ; it was purchased only a few miles from Lemeneagh Castle three years ago, from Mr. Millett the owner of Ballybaun House, who had acquired it thirty years previously from a family that had been resident in the County for many generations.

It is not known by whom the pictures are painted, the last two are painted on canvas. Conor's sword is preserved at Dromoland Castle, having been nearly three hundred years in the family's possession and was used in the famous encounter with Ireton's forces near Lemeneagh Castle, where he was killed in 1651.

Ireton died in the same year, from plague in his camp near Limerick. His body was brought back to London, where it was buried

in the family vault of the protector Cromwell, whose son-in-law he was, in Westminster Abbey. Ireton's body lay in state at Somerset House with a hatchment over it, with the well-known lines on it :-

"Dulee et decorum est pro patria mori",  
which the cavaliers interpreted,

"It is good for the Country that he should die".

A magniloquent epitaph was found amongst the papers of one of Ireton's descendants, in which his victories are described as wonderful ! "Ut dixisses Deum pro Iretano militasse, Iretonum pro deo". It is said, that the diarist Evelyn watched the procession, which he described as "very solemn". Mr. T.C. Croker, in his "Researches in Southern Ireland", says that Ireton died from the plague eight days after O'Brien Bishop of Emly had been executed at his orders. So active was the Bishop in persuading the Irish to hold out in Limerick against Cromwell's army, during the siege of the City, that Ireton offered him £ 40,000 to desist from his exhortations, and to quit the city with a passport to any other kingdom.

That he refused to do, and was hanged and beheaded. He threatened Ireton with life for life, summoning him to the tribunal of God in a few days. Ireton died, it was said, raging and raving of the Bishop, whose unjust condemnation he imagined hurried on his death.

That same author, speaking of the City of Limerick and its early history, and of Donald O'Brien, King of Limerick, who founded St. Mary's Cathedral in the city at the end of the 12th. century, says that the English cannot be said to have regained Limerick until Donald's death in AD. 1194. He quotes Ferrar who says in his "Civil History", that as proof of the importance of Limerick, King Richard granted the city a charter in the 9th. year of his reign to elect a mayor ; an honour which London did not obtain till ten year after, and Dublin not before AD. 1318.

Conor's eldest son, Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart of Leme-neagh and Dromoland, created baronet in 1686, succeeded his father, having been born in 1642. He was only nine years old when his father died. There is interesting correspondence between him and his mother among the Dromoland papers.

She had then become Mrs Cooper, and she and her husband were apparently living in Limerick just prior to Sir Donough's coming of age in 1663, whither the letters were written. One letter is written by Sir Donough from Lemeneagh Castle on the eve of his coming of age. In it he reminds his mother that he will be of age

"tomorrow", and he will no longer have to continue "dunning her for money". He married Lucia, daughter of Sir George Hamilton thirteen years later in 1676, by whom he had a son, Lucius, who predeceased him by ten months only and had married Catharine Keightley, the eldest daughter of Thomas Keightley, Lord Treasurer of Ireland and Lady Catharine Hyde, his wife, eldest daughter of Lord Chancellor 1st. Earl of Clarendon.

Sir Donough married secondly, Elizabeth Deane, the daughter of Major Joseph Deane of Cromlin. Major Deane was born in 1623 and died in 1677. He was married to Elizabeth Cuffe, the daughter of Maurice Cuffe of Quin, Co. Clare, from whom are descended the Earls of Desart. Elizabeth Deane was the widow of Henry Grey of Dublin. She died in 1684.

By his second marriage, Sir Donough had two girls and a boy; Honora, baptized 6 June 1678; Elizabeth born in June 1679 and died in 1697; and Henry who, marrying Susannah Stafford coheirress with her sister who became Lady Carberry, of Mr. William Stafford of Blatherwycke, Northamptonshire, was the progenitor of the Stonehall, Co. Clare and Blatherwycke branch of the O'Briens. The line, issuing from Sir Donough O'Brien's second son, is junior to his eldest son Lucius' line, and is being dealt with in this chapter. A full account of the branch founded by Henry O'Brien now extant, and living at Stonehall Co. Clare, is given in a subsequent chapter.

Lemeneagh Castle and Park had suffered very considerably during the Commonwealth; it was occupied by the Commonwealth army and tradition says, that a fine park of trees, which were an ornament to the estate, were cut down, and the deer park broken up. Long avenues of which scarcely a trace is now left, led to the house and contributed to the amenities of the place. The family lived at Inchiquin Castle with kinsmen, and at the restoration returned to Lemeneagh; but finding the castle and grounds to have suffered considerably, soon determined to abandon it as a residence. Sir Donough, accordingly, moved inland to Dromoland about 1685, the exact date is not known, and he died and was buried at Kilnasoolagh Church a couple of miles from there, in 1717. The Lemeneagh O'Briens had moved from one part of their estates to another part, and here they have lived continuously ever since, a period of some two hundred and sixty five years. Thirteen generations of eldest sons have succeeded one another, and this remarkable record has contributed much to the preservation of family documents and his-

tory. The 15th. Baron Inchiquin has preserved the beautiful stone-carved porch of the Castle of Lemenagh which was falling to pieces, before the Commission for the preservation of historical Irish monuments had come into existence, by removing it and erecting it, stone for stone to the large flower garden at Dromoland Castle, where it forms a decorative entrance arch.

Lord Inchiquin also, set up in the hall at Dromoland one of the ancient stone mantlepieces that graced the interior of the castle of Lemeneagh. The old castle is now under the supervision of the Irish Commission mentioned. Access can be obtained to the upper floors, and is one of the largest of its kind still standing in the county, unless we except the Castle of Bunratty, ten miles from Limerick on the Limerick-Ennis road. There is a large white marble recumbent statue in Kilnasoolagh church, erected to Sir Donough's memory. It is set on black marble with a plaque on the wall immediately behind, bearing a long tribute to him in Latin. It is the work of William Kidwell, a Dublin stonemason, who died in 1736. Among the church relics is a sacramental cup and patten. On each of which is the following inscription :-

"Ex dono donati O'Brien, Baronetti in VSVM ecclesiac"

"Killansylalach in countaty Clare"—

"Given by Donough O'Brien Baronet for the use of

"Kilnasoolagh church County Clare".

By his will Sir Donough directed, that

"the person to whom the lands of Rathfolanbegg should come, by

"virtue of his will, should yearly pay for ever £ 18 sterlings ; £ 6 thereof

"to a person qualified to teach in reading and writings, twenty four

"young boys of the Parish of Killenasulagh, and the neighbourhood

"thereof ; and the remaining £ 12 to the said boys. They and the said

"schoolmaster to be nominated by his grandson Edward and his heirs".

“(Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart).

It is not known, what happened to this legacy, but it may be assumed that it evaporated with time !

Kilnasoolagh has since those days been the burial place of the heads of the family. There is record of his grandson, Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart, being buried in the church, and likewise Sir Lucius, 3rd. Bart and Sir Edward 4th. Bart.

The fourth baronet's son, Sir Lucius, 5th. Bart., and 13th Baron Inchiquin by succession to his kinsman James 3rd. and last Marquis of Thomond, built a tomb immediately outside the church, where he and his brother Honorable Robert O'Brien lie buried. This tomb was

recently opened, and their two coffins were the only ones. Sir Lucius' son Edward Donough 14th. Baron, and his son Lucius the 15th. Baron were buried in the burial ground adjoining the church of Kilnasoolagh.

When James II landed in Ireland in 1689, Sir Donough, was already installed at Dromoland, since we find him writing as Sheriff of the County of Clare from Dromoland on 26th. April of 1690 to Lord Deputy. In no part of the County was the appeal to arms in support of James II more readily responded to than in Clare, where James was regarded as the people's legitimate king and a catholic.

His kinsman Daniel, <sup>3rd</sup> 1st. Viscount Clare, had been appointed as Lord Lieutenant of the County. Clare was a catholic and Sir Donough a protestant.

To them were mainly committed the King's interests. Lord Clare seems to have assumed to himself the duty of raising the men, while to Sir Donough, the sheriff, was entrusted the business of providing money and military appliances for the support and equipment of the troops. In a letter from Sir Donough to the Earl of Limerick, giving an account of horses pressed in the County of Clare, and sent to Cork for the service of the King, he says :-

"I send a list of the chief gentlemen and ablest persons in  
"this County, whose names I have returned to the respective High  
"Constables, to be summoned immediately to bring in their best  
"horses without delay to go to Cork. Lt. Colonel Mac Namara was  
"with me at the making of this list, and has sent a squadron of Dra-  
"goons to each High Constable to go about with them, and immedia-  
"tely to seize such of the several persons as refuse or delay the bring-  
"ing in of their horses, and to carry them as prisoners before your lord-  
"ship.

"This course will, I hope, expedite the business, so that I make  
"doubt a good many of the horses will be at Limerick on Monday  
"most, and the rest soon after.

"My Lord, it is the want of horses generally throughout the  
"County, which have been taken from the people by Dragoons and  
"others, and not the want of good will to serve His Majesty with all  
"they have, that makes this county so backward in sending horses,  
"as your Lordship says they are. But now, I hope, what they send will  
"please your Lordship, and that you will not impute any default of  
"this to me, since I have endeavoured and always will be ready to exe-  
"cute your Lordship's commands.

"Your Lordship's humble servant, Donogh O'Brien  
"Sheriff of the County of Clare.

Dromoland, 26 April 1690".

In the early part of the year 1689, the Duke of Tyrconnel, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, called upon the Irish loyalists to take arms in defence of the rights of their sovereign James II. His summons was instantly complied with, and it was ordained that the County of Clare should supply two regiments, one of Dragoons to be commanded by Lord Clare ; and the other of infantry under the command of his second son, Charles O'Brien.

The following year the regiment was called out under the name of the Clare Dragoons, and it was engaged at the Battle of the Boyne. It acted badly there in comparison with the superior style shown by the other regiments of James' cavalry at the battle.

Whatever the faults of the Clare Dragoons may have been on that occasion, probably consisting largely of raw recruits, their shortcomings were afterwards in many a field, "from Dunkirk to Belgrade", gloriously expiated.

As is known, the power of James and his adherents was short lived, and the day of retribution was at hand for the supporters of the King. After the surrender at Limerick, there was no prospect for them, but exile and poverty and the Court of Claims was full of Claims for exoneration for their conduct, on one or another ground. It sat in 1700 in Dublin. The Court had sat for several months, and in the majority of instances its decisions were unfavorable to those who came before it in the hope of escaping the penalties of attainder. It was found that the petitions presented could not be heard within reasonable time, so the Court was dissolved, and the lands of James' partisans were put up for sale by auction without further enquiry as to the degree of culpability of their several owners. The sale took place at Chichester House, Dublin in 1703. All hope was now abandoned by the unfortunate Irish gentry. Many of them left their homes for foreign countries, and there struggled to eke out a miserable existence in the army or navy. Some few attained to eminence as soldiers, sailors, statesmen, or diplomatists, but for the majority the life on the continent was one of privation and hardship.

Of those, who remained at home the greater number sunk into the condition of peasants, and for a hundred years, under the baneful operation of the penal laws, led a life of slavery and degradation.

Writing of these circumstances in his "Memoirs of the O'Briens" (1860) John Donoghue says :-

"It was fortunate for the leading members of the O'Brien  
"race, that James II's attempt to regain his crown failed. His success

"would have parcelled out the extensive estates of the Earls of Thomond, and of Inchiquin amongst his French followers".

There was already a black list prescribing persons who were his opponents; amongst them were William 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin his son William Lord O'Brien; Henry Lord Ibrickan, the eldest son of the 7th. Earl of Thomond. These, like Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart of Dromoland were protestants, while Lord Clare was catholic. Lord Clare's estates were forfeited with the failure of James, which was inevitable for that reason. But we must look to the very close relationship of Sir Donough to James II by marriage for an explanation why his estates were not also confiscated or sold at Chichester House following James' defeat.

Frost says :-

"The Dromoland Branch, as they have since been designated, although it was not until recent years after the revolution that their residence was fixed at that place, had formed too close a connexion with royalty itself to suffer in any event, Sir Donogh O'Brien, who was an infant under the age of ten years when his father Conor was killed (1651) at the head of his troop in the engagement with Ludlow's cavalry at Inchicronan, had attained his majority when the Act of Settlement passed, and had received a considerable part of his paternal estates. On the accession of James, he received a further mark of the Royal favor by having conferred on him the rank of baronet, the patent of which bears date the 9th. November 1686.

"The marriage of his son Lucius with Catharine, daughter of Mr. Thomas Keightley and the Lady Frances Hyde, aunt to Queens Mary and Anne, placed Sir Donogh in an intimate and close relation with both the contending monarchs, and in whatever way the struggle was destined to terminate, the interests of the Dromoland family were certain to be favorably considered".

This position, while it operated as a bar to their taking an active part in the war of the revolution, necessarily protected the Dromoland estates from forfeiture.

"At all events", says Frost, "the circumstances alluded to in the foregoing observations are sufficient to account for the absence of the names of any members of this branch from the list of these attainted by the parliament of James".

It is seen that, the Viscounts Clare, descended from Sir Daniel O'Brien, younger <sup>brother</sup> son of Donough 4th. Earl of Thomond, who was created Viscount Clare in 1662 by Charles II; and Sir Donough O'Brien of Dromoland sustained the cause of James II in Ireland,

and that the Earls of Thomond and the Earls of Inchiquin in the persons of Henry the 7th Earl of Thomond and William, 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin threw in their lot with William of Orange and favored the revolution and the protestant cause. The Earls of Thomond whose Irish Castle and estates were at Bunratty Castle, had in the person of Barnabas 6th. Earl of Thomond gone to the support of Charles I in England in 1641 and to live at the castle of Great Billing in Northamptonshire.

His son Henry and grandson Henry Horatio, having adopted whig principles, welcomed William of Orange's arrival and joined the Duke of Marlborough's forces as a volunteer, in the operations against Cork and Kinsale. They were included in the list of attainted, quitting Ireland on the recall of Lord Clarendon. William 2nd. Earl of Inchiquin, a junior kinsman to the Thomonds, also welcomed the Prince of Orange as a deliverer. His castle and estate were Rostellian Castle, fifteen miles from Cork, and overlooking Queenstown Harbour.

Carefully brought up in the principles of the reformation by his mother a daughter of Sir William St. Ledger, the Earl joined his relatives of the Boyle family, and collected troops to oppose the progress of King James. The government in England sent him little military support, and his troops being dispersed by the superior forces of Macarthy Lord Mountcashel, he was obliged to take refuge with his son William Lord O'Brien in England.

Had the fortune of war decided in favor of King James neither himself nor Henry Earl of Thomond could have expected any mercy.

This brief notice of the state of the parties among the several branches of the O'Briens, will enable the reader to understand their relative positions, and how they escaped the ruin, in which several of the ancient families of Ireland were overwhelmed and extinguished.

Resistance to William's forces in Ireland by James' supporters continued, till the articles of the Treaty of Limerick, bearing date 3rd. October 1691, were signed and the revolution was at an end. The 19,000 men and officers under the command of Sarsfield D'Usson, and Tesse embarked for France.

James himself addressed letters to his partisans in England, assuring them that he would once more visit his dominions, and at the head of 30,000 men to be embarked at La Hogue.

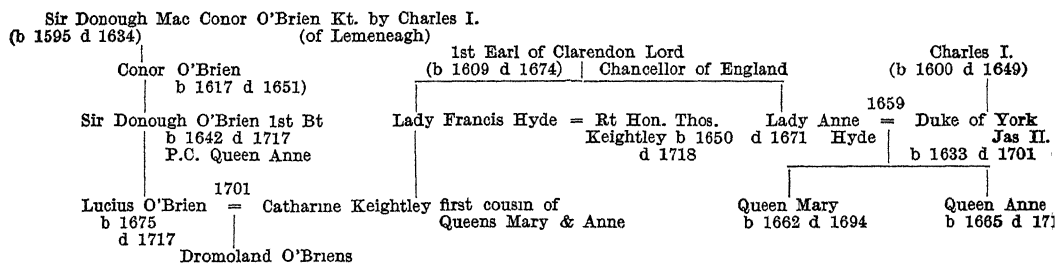
These troops, consisting of the Irish recently landed, and some French, were actually prepared and ready to embark, when the

French fleet by which they were to be conveyed was attacked and defeated by Admiral Russell along with the transports destined to convey them. The Irish troops which had left Limerick a year ago, were hoping to return to their native country, and to re-establish James' cause again in Ireland. The victory of La Hogue, whereby their hopes were dethroned, occurred on the 22nd. May 1692.

It is interesting to give a more detailed account of Sir Donough O'Brien's connection by marriage with the Royal family of England, than has been given above; and which will more easily explain the influence in royal circles that was forthcoming to prevent forfeiture of the family estates of this branch. His eldest son Lucius, born in 1675, whose christian name was an adaptation of that of his mother Lucia, daughter of Sir William Hamilton, married Catharine Keightley in 1701. The name Lucius, appears, thereafter, frequently among descendants of the Dromoland branch of the O'Briens, but not in other branches.

Lord Chancellor Clarendon had two daughters, the ladies Francis, and Anne Hyde. The lady Francis married the Right Honourable Thomas Keightley, Lord Treasurer of Ireland, and had Catharine Keightley, who married Lucius O'Brien of Dromoland.

The Lady Anne married the Duke of York, as his first wife, who later became James II. There were two girls of the marriage, Queens Mary and Anne. Thus Catharine Keightley, and the two Queens were first cousins. The following short pedigree gives the relationship mentioned :-



Lucius, having died in his father's lifetime, did not succeed to the baronetcy; but his son Edward, born in 1705, became, on his grandfather, Sir Donough O'Brien's death, the 2nd. baronet. Lucius had other children :- Thomas, who died young in 1727; Anne and Lucia, both of whom died young. Lucius died in Paris in 1717, and was privately buried in the gardens of the Swedish Envoy there. Sir

Donough was made a Privy Councillor by Queen Anne, who presented a full-length portrait of herself by Sir Godfrey Kneller to the family, and a portrait of her grandmother, Henrietta Maria by Vandyck, both of which now hang on the walls of Dromoland Castle.

She was fond of her cousin Catharine Keightley, and when she fell on difficult times supported her financially after her husband's death. Particulars of a settlement made for her benefit by the Queen appear in the chapter on the Pictures and Works of Art at Dromoland Castle.

Without anticipating the chapter on the Stonehall and Blatherwyck O'Briens we should point out that, Sir Donough made a substantial settlement in his lifetime on his second son, Henry O'Brien including Stonehall House on the Shannon, near Limerick, on the road to Bunratty Castle, which is still owned by that branch. Sir Donough's grandson and heir Edward was a minor of twelve years of age, when his father died, and his mother Catharine Keightley was his guardian. Young Edward seems to have quickly settled down to expensive living, and through the Royal family connection in England started racing at Newmarket in an expensive set.

He renamed the village two miles from Dromoland, Newmarket-on-Fergus, and trained horses, establishing a turret on the top of what has become to be called The Turret Hill outside the demesne gate that opens on to the Limerick-Ennis road.

It is on the top of a hill from which a fine view for miles of country can be seen in all directions, but more particularly the turret was furnished and hung with racing pictures, some of which are now in the castle depicting hunting and racing scenes. It was used as a grand stand. From here Sir Edward O'Brien, and his guests, watched the running of their horses over the race course, that ran all round the base of the hill.

There are at Dromoland some very fine oil paintings of racing at Newmarket in England and some twenty pictures of Arabian race horses of the day, besides pictures, one of Sir Edward with his favorite hounds, and of himself on horse-back with his pack.

His wife's saddle-cloth is preserved at Dromoland and there is a picture of her mount saddled up with runner in attendance. She was Mary daughter of Hugh Hickman of Fenloe, Co. Clare, and he married her in 1726, in his twenty first year.

Sir Edward lived to 60 years of age, dying in 1765, leaving nine children, three sons and six daughters.

Before passing to an account of them, something may be said of the large family estates that were left out of the family by his kinsman Henry, 8th. and last Earl of Thomond, by his will made in 1738, when Sir Edward was 33 years of age ; and who in the circumstances of failure of male heirs to the Earl, might have been expected to become his heir.

A reference may be made to the chapter here on the Earls of Thomond, where the matter is fully discussed. The last Earl died in 1841 leaving his large estates to Murrough Lord O'Brien the surviving son of William 4th. Earl of Inchiquin, with remainder to Percy Wyndham. Murrough died and the reversion became effective. It is believed that Sir Edward of the Dromoland branch of the day was living too extravagantly at the time, when the Earl was seeking an heir among his kinsmen, and that disapproving of him as a suitable heir, and Marshal Thomond (6th Vist. Clare) refusing to turn protestant to inherit the estates, he resolved to leave him out of his will. Had he inherited the Thomond estates the fortunes of the now senior branch of the O'Briens would have been greatly enhanced. They passed through Percy Wyndham, who was only a connection of the Earl of Thomond by marriage, and not of O'Brien blood, and so down to the present family of Baron Leconfield. Sir Edward was buried at Kilnasoolagh church.

Of the nine children of Sir Edward O'Brien, his eldest son was Lucius Henry born in 1731, a man of quite different parts to his father, an intellectual, a Greek and Latin scholar and a brilliant politician. He entered S.C. at Trinity College, Dublin, on 9th. July 1748, at the age of sixteen. He became a B.A. Vernon in 1752. Joined the Irish bar in 1758, and succeeded his father, as 3rd. Baronet of Dromoland, becoming a Privy councillor and M.P.

There is a picture of him at Dromoland in scholar's gown holding a book on the classics and standing in an open square with the college buildings as a background; he married Anne French, daughter of Robert French of Monivea, Co. Galway, in 1768. He died in 1795, and was buried at Kilnasoolagh church.

There is a portrait of Sir Lucius, as an older man, wearing a grey wig and neck scarf, at Dromoland. Sir Lucius seems to have contributed a large number of books to the library at Dromoland, and particularly books of classical authors. Some are works of the greek

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and latin authors of the late 16th. century and early part of the 17th. century, which are said to be of considerable value and interest, all of which authors Sir Lucius O'Brien must have been familiar with being a good greek and latin scholar.

Sir Lucius entered Parliament in 1763 as a member for Ennis Borough, and in the same year signalized himself by a remarkable speech describing the conditions of the County which is largely quoted by Lecky (*History of England* IV, 326). He represented Clare in the Irish House of Commons for thirty years. He formed a friendship with Charles Lucas (1713-1771), the Irish patriot, and soon became a prominent member of the popular party.

He is said to have had a very extensive and accurate knowledge of commercial affairs, which acquired for him a considerable degree of public reputation. His matter, it is said, was generally good and his reasoning sound. His conduct in Parliament was often spirited, and independent, and he was generally listened to with respect.

In March 1766, the year after he had succeeded to his father's baronetcy, he was placed at the head of a committee, to prepare and introduce a bill making the judges offices tenable "*quamdiu se bene gesserint*", and not as previously in Ireland during the King's pleasure. The Bill was passed but did not receive the assent of the English Privy Council till 1782.

In 1768 Sir Lucius contested his father's seat in county Clare, at a cost of £ 2,000 and he was elected, and represented the county till 1776, when he was returned for Ennis.

He took part in endeavouring to get removed the restrictions on trade between England and Ireland, making frequent speeches in Parliament on the subject. He feared the invasion of Ireland, and reported on the state of county Clare, and urged the formation of a county militia. He headed the volunteer movement in Clare, and took an active part in the agitation for Irish legislative independence.

In 1780 he led the opposition to the Government in the matter of the import duties between Portugal and Ireland. In 1782 he supported Grattan's motion for an address to the King in favor of legislative independence. In 1787 he was sworn a member of the Privy Council, and was appointed clerk to the crown and hanaper in the High Court of Chancery.

Sir Lucius took a prominent part in the debates on Pitt's proposals for removing the restrictions on Irish trade. He also took part in the debates on the Regency question of 1788.



*Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Baronet, born in 1642 died in 1717, eldest son of Conor O'Brien who was great grandson of Donough O'Brien of Lemeneagh and Dromoland. Privy councillor to Queen Anne.*

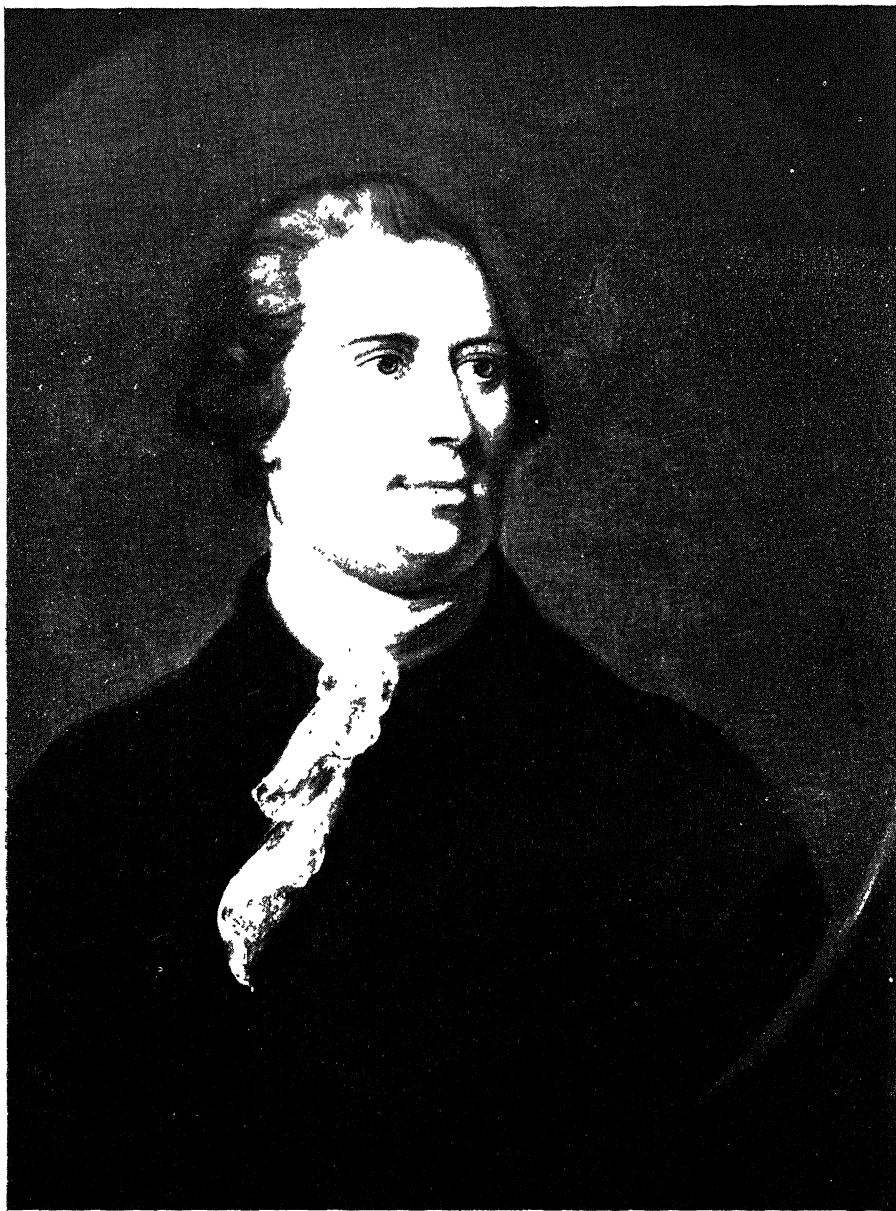
*Painted by Mary Beal.*



*Lucius O'Brien, Eldest son of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. baronet, born in 1675 died in vita patris 1717. Married Catharine Keightley daughter of Rt. Honorable. Thomas Keightley Lord Treasurer and Lady Frances Hyde the sister of Lady Anne Hyde the wife of James II. She was a first cousin of Queens Mary and Anne. The father of the Ladies Hyde was the 1st. Earl of Clarendon. Lord Chancellor of England.*



*Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd Baronet, born in 1705, died in 1765. Race horse owner.  
The son of Lucius O'Brien who married Catharine Keightley.*



*Sir Lucius O'Brien, 3rd Baronet, Scholar of Trinity College Dublin, a prominent member of the Irish Parliament. Born in 1731, died in 1794. Eldest son of Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd Baronet.*

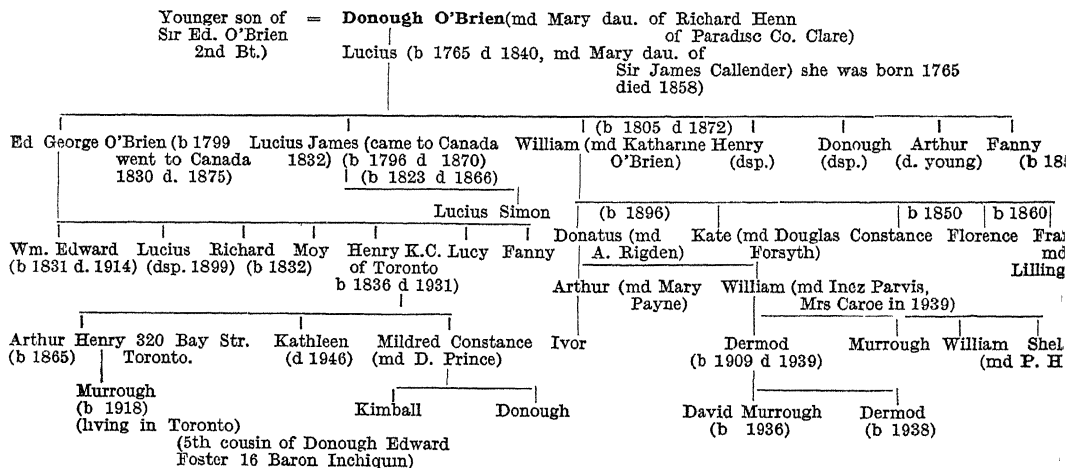
*Painted by Harnet.*

In 1790 he was returned to Parliament for Ennis, which he represented till his death in 1795. In 1791 he moved a resolution for the more satisfactory tryings of election petitions, and his last recorded speech in Parliament was on the subject of trade with India.

Before passing to notice Sir Lucius O'Brien's issue of six sons and six daughters, his brothers and sisters can be first recorded. His eldest brother was Donough, who married Mary, daughter of Richard Henn of Paradise, Co. Clare, whose eldest son was Lucius, who married Mary daughter of Sir James Callender of Craigforth was born in 1765, and died in 1840. He was the progenitor of the O'Briens, now known as the "Canadian" branch of the family.

We give here a short pedigree of this Donough's descendants:-

### CANADIAN BRANCH OF THE O'BRIENS



Edward George O'Brien R.N. retired from the navy in 1830, and went out to Canada, and settled at Shanty Bay, near Lake Simcoe. He became a J.P. and Colonel of Militia. He married Sophia Gapper, and died in 1875. He had five brothers, and one sister.

1.—Lucius James was born at Woolwich, England, he married, but left no son surviving ; was born on 1796, and died in 1870. He came to Canada in 1832 and settled at Thornhill, in Upper Canada. He was professor of medical jurisprudence at Toronto University. His son Lucius Simon was born in 1823 at Clifton near Bristol ; arrived in Canada in 1863, and died in 1866 in Shewnigan, Vancouver Island. He married the widow of Chief Factor Ross, founder of Port Victoria, the Hudson Bay Company's post.

2.—Henry d.s.p.

3.—Donough d.s.p.

4.—William, born in 1808 and died in 1872, having Donatus, Kate, and Francis Elizabeth, by his wife Katharine O'Brien, daughter of Major General Edward James O'Brien. She was born in 1814, and died in 1857.

5.—Arthur, died young.

6.—Fanny.

His children were: - (four sons and two daughters)

1.—William Edward born in 1831, and died in 1914. He married Miss E. Loring, and became an M.P. in Canada. He was in the Fenian raid in 1866 and N. West rebellion in 1885.

2.—Lucius Richard, born in 1832 and died in 1899, He died without issue. He was a distinguished artist (especially in landscape) and became the first President of the Royal Canadian Academy. Queen Victoria gave him some commissions to paint pictures which are now at Windsor and Buckingham Palace.

3.—Moy.

4.—Henry, who married Elizabeth Ardagh, a cousin of Sir John Ardagh K.C.I.E. He practised at the Canadian bar, becoming a K.C. He was born in 1836, and died in 1931, at the age of 95. He founded the Argonaut Racing Club of N. America, and was its first president.

5.—Lucy.

6.—Fanny, married G. Moberly, and had a son John, born in 1885.

Of these children of Edward George O'Brien, this fourth Henry, had a son and two daughters :-

1.—Kathleen was unmarried, born in 1861, she died in 1946. She was awarded The George VI Silver Jubilee Medal for service in the Red Cross during the first great war.

2.—Arthur Henry, who was born in 1865, and married Miriam Knowlton, the daughter of Frederick J. Knowlton of Knowlton, St. John, N.B. He is a lawyer living at 320 Bay Street, Toronto. He has a son Murrough, born in 1918. He is a 5th cousin of the present chief of the O'Briens Lord Inchiquin 16th. Baron.

3.—Mildred Constance, who married H.A. Prince, and has Kimball and Donough.

Arthur Henry had long service with the militia, and went overseas in 1916 as second in command of the 180th. Sportsman's battalion, which he trained.

His son Murrough was educated at Upper Canada College, and was in the active militia. He has a medal for life-saving.

Sir Lucius O'Brien's second brother was Capt. Edward, married Charlotte, daughter of Thomas Hickman of Brickhill, Co. Clare, and died in 1787. He had Anne O'Brien who married her first cousin, Admiral Robert O'Brien ; Marianne who married in 1796 the Revd. Thomas Ross of Co. Devon ; and two sons, James O'Brien of Castle Fergus, Co. Clare, born 1775, married Margaret daughter of Capt. William Stronge and died in 1822, leaving a daughter Anne who married Richard Savage rector of Longhall, he died in 1851 ; and Murrough O'Brien, born in 1787, married Matilda daughter of Robert Norman, and died in 1814. He had a son and daughter, Edward Murrough, born in 1814, died in 1895, and Harriett, born in 1812, who married in 1836 Dr. Nesbitt Heffernan, she died in 1904.

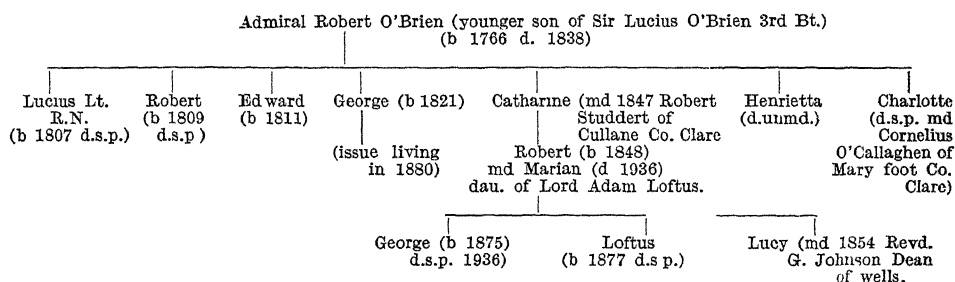
Sir Lucius had six sisters :-

Henrietta, who died unmarried, as did Harriett her sister ; Anne who married Richard Dawson of Atherdee, brother of the 1st. Viscount Cremorne ; Mary who married John Quin of Rossbrien and died in 1782 ; Catharine who married Charles MacDonnell of New Hall (Killone) who was born in 1736, bought Killone Abbey in 1764 (see chapter on the Ennistymon O'Briens) and died in 1773. She died in 1818; and Lucy O'Brien, who in 1766 married Thomas Arthur of Glanmore.

We can now return to give particulars of Sir Lucius O'Brien's children. The eldest son was. Sir Edward O'Brien 4th. Bart. (and grandson of Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart) who carried down

the main line of the Dromoland O'Briens, but before speaking of this Edward, it is best to give an account of his four brothers and six sisters.

His eldest brother, Lucius O'Brien married Julia, daughter of William Humphreys, who died without issue ; his second brother Admiral Robert O'Brien, R.N., born in 1766, and died in 1838, married, as we have seen his first cousin Anne, daughter of Edward O'Brien and Charlotte Hickman. Robert's pedigree reads :- (five sons and four daughters).



Sir Edward's third brother was Donough, born in 1780, married in 1822 Marianne Semple, who died in 1843, their issue were Lucius, James, Henry, Edward, Emma, Mary, Lucy. An entry appears in the M.S. at the King's Inn. Dublin, dated 17 November 1801 that Donough was educated at the University of Oxford and partly at Glasgow.

His fourth brother was Henry who married Harriett Mann, and died without issue, his fifth brother, Conor, who died in the West Indies.

His six sisters were :-

1.—Nichola, in 1799, married Robert French of Monivea, and died in 1847.

2.—Henrietta, married Joseph Mann, and had a son Lucius born in 1821.

3.—Katharine, married in 1813 Gerald Fitzgerald of Coolnanowle, Queens County, and died in 1819.

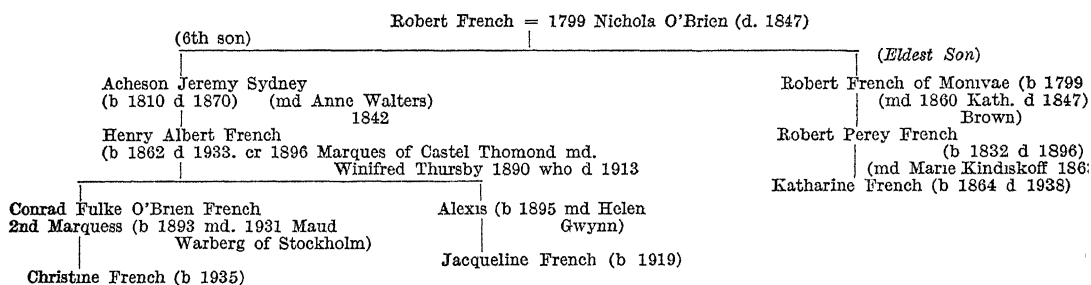
4.—Lucy, who died in 1857.

5.—Annie-Maria, who married Archdeacon Spooner in 1810. She died in 1846.

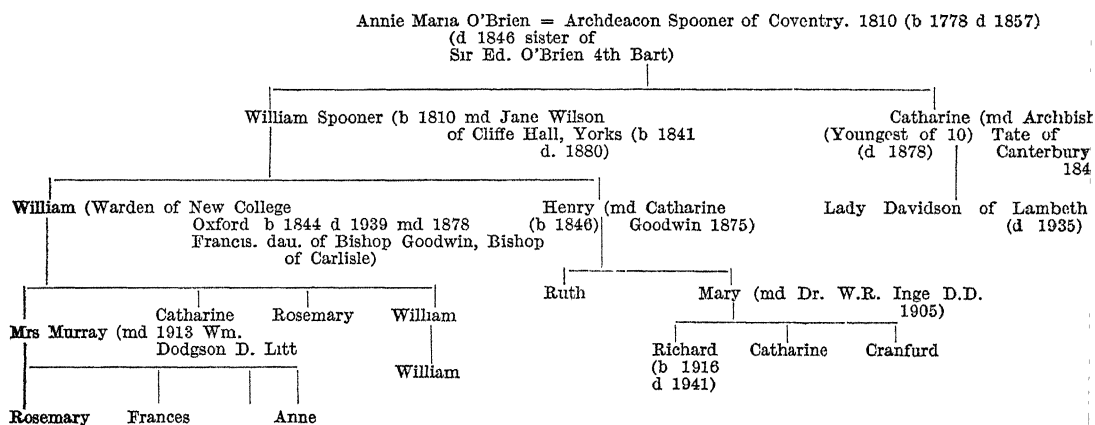
6.—Charlotte, who died in 1838, married in 1806 The Honorable Revd. G. Noel, brother of Charles 1st. Earl of Gainsborough Their issue consisted of two sons, Gerland and Charles, both of whom died young, and six girls.

Something more must be said of the eldest sister, Nichola, as her grandson Henry Albert French was created 1st. Marquess of Castelthomond by the Pope in 1896, whose son Conrad Fulke is now the second Marquess ; also of Annie Maria, her sister, who married Archdeacon Spooner in 1810.

Here are Nichola O'Brien's descendants by her husband Robert French of Monivea, Co. Galway :-



and here are the descendants of Annie Maria, who married Archdeacon Spooner :-



Having written of his brothers and sisters, we can return to an account of Sir Edward O'Brien 4th. Bart, their eldest brother. He was born in 1773, became M.P. for County Clare, married Charlotte Smith in 1799, whose father was an attorney ; he died in 1837 and was buried in Kilnasoolagh church in the family vault. Like his father and grandfather he had a large family. He was succeeded by his eldest son Lucius as 5th. Baronet, who in 1855 succeeded to the Barony of Inchiquin as 13th Baron on the decease of his kinsman James 3rd. Marquis of Thomond. Sir Edward lived at Dromoland and at the family mansion in Kildare Street, Dublin, when in the city. The house stood on the site of the present Kildare Street Club.

Perhaps he will go down in the family history for his long planned rebuilding of the ancestral home of the Dromoland O'Briens. He pulled down the Queen Anne house and built the present castle, designed by William Paine the famous architect, in grey limestone. The operation and preparation of designs took ten years or more. and the castle was completed about 1826; so Sir Edward had the satisfaction of living in the castle for some years.

The family lived in one part of the old house, while the other half was pulled down, and the new half of the castle was built. When the first half was completed the family moved over to it, and the second half of the old house was demolished and rebuilt according to plan. With the large family of Sir Edward and huge staff of servants, that was kept in those days, the family must have been severely cramped over ten or fifteen years of the pulling down, and building up of the new castle.

William Paine built a beautiful and stately castle, which is seen from the illustration in this book. It was completed in 1826. From an examination of the architect's plans, it is clear, that in the first instance a house, and not a castle was contemplated. Paine's plans in the muniment room at Dromoland show this.

There is a sketch book at Dromoland, which shows one half of the new edifice built, and the old half standing to it as one. Sir Edward O'Brien's sons, boys at the time, are walking below it, carrying guns and otherwise disporting themselves by the lake, which is fifty yards only from the house. The book is the work of his eldest son Lucius, afterwards 13th. Baron Inchiquin. This page in the book, and another showing the other side of the building are of special interest, as showing what the former house, known to have been of

Queen Anne design, was like. It is believed to have in its turn, replaced a castle stronghold on or near the present site, and which would have been contemporary with Lemeneh (Lemeneagh) Castle, whence came the O'Briens after its spoliation by the Commonwealth forces, which occupied it.

One certainly existed in the demesne, as reference to The O'Brien's Castle stronghold at Dromoland (Dromolin), appears of record.

The sketch book has many coloured illustrations of Sir Edward. O'Brien's sons and the text is in dogerell verse illustrating their activities at Dromoland. Their names were Lucius, William, Edward, Robert and Henry. William of course, was "William Smith O'Brien" of later fame, born 1803, The family were then living in the new portion of the house, which was the large quadrangle, and is today talked of as the "old part" of the castle, while arrangements were planning to pull down the part they had left and complete the castle and its 80 foot high round tower, which is a prominent feature of the building.

There is a large portrait of Sir Edward at Dromoland, and a small oil painting of Charlotte Smith, his wife. His maternal great grand nephew Mr. Dudley Perceval of The Priory, Brightwell, has a duplicate of the latter and a fine miniature of Sir Edward,

Sir Edward O'Brien was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Lucius, 5th. Bart. who became by succession to his kinsman, 13th. Baron Inchiquin in 1855.

Before writing of him, some account of his young brothers and sisters should be given :-

1.—Sir Lucius O'Brien 5th. Bart of whom we write above (13th. Baron), buried at Kilnasoolagh Church in ths family tomb.

2.—William Smith O'Brien, M.P. born 1803, died 1864.

3.—Edward O'Brien, born 1806, died 1840.

4.—Robert O'Brien, born 1809, died 1870. Buried at Kilnasoolagh in the family tomb.

5.—Henry O'Brien, born 1813, died 1895.

and four sisters :-

1.—Grace, died 1871, unmarried. She was a cempetent water colour artist some of whose landscapes are at Dromoland Castle.

2.—Anne, married The Revd. A. Martineau in 1837, and died in 1874, he died in 1872.

3.—Harriet, born in 1812 married in 1839 Revd. Charles Monsell, who died in 1851. She died in 1883. She founded the convent of St. John the baptist at Clewer, Windsor.

4.—Katharine, married in 1837 the Revd. Hon. Charles Harris, youngest son of the second Earl of Malmesbury. She died in 1865, and he died in 1874. He became Bishop of Gibraltar.

William Smith O'Brien M.P. was born on 17 October 1803, and married in 1832 Lucy Gabbett of High Park, County Limerick, who died in 1861 ; William Smith inherited the Carmoyle house and estate from his maternal grandfather William Smith, his mother and her sister being co-heiress of his estate.

He added the name Smith upon inheriting, having been christened William only. There were five sons and two daughters of the marriage.

1.—Edward William, of Cahirmoyle, born in 1837, died in 1909.

2.—William Joseph born in 1839 died in 1867.

3.—The very Revd. Lucius Dean of Limerick, born 1842, who married in 1872 Emily Montgomery ; he died in 1942<sup>13</sup>. He did much for the Cathedral of St. Mary in Limerick, where is a memorial to him.

4.—Robert Donough, born in 1844, and died in 1917.

5.—Charles Murrough, born in 1849, married Mary Watt and died in 1877.

6.—Lucy, who married the Revd. John Gwynn in 1862, Dean of Raphoe who died in 1913. She died in 1907.

7.—Charlotte, who died in 1909.

William Smith O'Brien's eldest son married twice, firstly in 1863 the Honorable Mary Spring Rice, sister of Thomas Lord Monteagle, she died in 1868 and by that marriage had William Dermod O'Brien, who died in 1945, and had been for thirty-five years, President of the Royal Hibernian Academy. He married in 1902 Mable daughter of Sir Philip Smyly, who died in 1942. William Dermod was born in 1865 ; he had two sisters, Ellen Lucy died 1926 and Lucy Mary who married in 1894 Arthur B. Cane. She became a C.B.E. and died in 1926.

By his second wife, Julia Marshall, whom he married in 1880, and who died in 1907 he had :-

1.—Edward Conor, born 1880, married 1928 Catharine Clausen. She died in 1936. He was a scholar at Winchester College.

2.—Aubrey, born 1882, died 1914.

3.—Katharine, born 1885.

4.—Margaret born 1887, married her cousin Hugh Vere O'Brien 1915.

William Dermot O'Brien P.R.H.A. had three sons and two daughters :-

1.—Brendan Edward born 1903, married 1936 Pamela Wilmer, who has a son Dermot born in 1941.

2.—David Lucius, born 1904, married 1929, Mary daughter of Sir Arthur Steel Maitland, and has issue Michael David born 1930 and Lucia Margaret, born 1932.

4.—Mary Elinor born 1907, married 1934 Bruce Martin Flegg<sup>t</sup> who have Martin born 1938 and Katharine born 1934.

3.—Horace Donough, married Pamela Goodbody in 1941, was born in 1911, and they have Caroline born 1942.

5.—Rosaleen, born 1909, married 1936 Andrew Ganley, and have Eoghan born 1938 and Helen born 1939.

Brendan Edward who married Pamela Wilmer in 1936 is now the head of William Smith O'Brien's stock and his great grandson. He has a son Dermot Wilmer, born in 1941.

William Smith O'Brien was born at Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare on 17th. October 1803. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1826. He decided on a political career. At a by-election in April 1828 he was returned to the House of Commons, as a supporter of Sir Robert Peel, for the borough of Ennis, which he represented for three years. His first speech was in June, when he spoke in favor of a paper currency. He shortly after that declared his approval of Roman Catholic emancipation and was a member of the Catholic Association. He was himself a protestant. He opposed Daniel O'Connell's candidature of Clare, and was supported by his father Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th. Bart. in his efforts. Out of the circumstances he fought a duel with Tom Steel. It appeared, that some of the landowners, protestant and catholic, had voted for O'Connell, but William Smith had said, that he got in without protestant support. Steel was a protestant landowner in County Clare, where the election was fought, and was annoyed at this remark, saying that he had voted for him.

Steel sent a letter to the Herald practically saying, that O'Brien was a liar and in most abusive terms, which the paper published, leaving the worst parts out, inserting stars in their place.

Mr. W. Grieg for William Smith, demanded from Steel, through the O'Gorman Mahon, who was Steel's second, what the stars had replaced. An answer was refused, and after some letter writing between the seconds, a duel was arranged and took place. Shots were exchanged, but no one was hurt. Whereupon, the O'Gorman Mahon challenged William Smith, saying he had been insulted, as he was also a landlord and a protestant, and had voted for O'Connell.

William Smith O'Brien took the line, however, that he had no dispute with him and that seems to have ended it. But Steel published a retraction of his original article, and the newspaper said that William Smith had made a mistake resulting in the article having appeared !

It is not known, where the duel took place. Grieg who was O'Brien's second, was believed to have been a member of the Athenaeum Club in London, and his christian name was, Worongow, which does not sound English.

This Thomas Steel, who gave battle to William Smith O'Brien was a well known Clare sportsman who instituted the Clare Gold Cup Trophy in 1794. It was one of the most sporting events in the palmy days of old Ballycoree. There were some splendid races for it. It was a weight for age race for Clare bred hunters, and was first run that year. The Old Clare Gold Cup was a handsome piece of gold plate of solid gold. The cup originated in the fertile brain of Tom Steel, who collected the money to have it made.

Mr. Vandaleur of Ralahine won it three times ; other winners of the cup were Mr. Canny, of Castle Fergus close to Dromoland ; Major Calpoys, Major Studdert of Kilkishin House, who married a daughter of Admiral Robert O'Brien, brother of the 13th. Baron Inchiquin, and Mr. Henry White. Some unsuccessful challenges amongst the Clare County sportsmen, were Mr. O'Callaghan, Mr. Downs, Mr. Simon Creagh, and Mr. Moloney of Kiltanon; in later years a famous winner of the race was the widely known "McInerney Mare" that had won many races in the County. The last winner of the gold cup was Colonel Augustine Butler, and it rested on his sideboard at Ballyline for many years, but mysteriously disappeared some time after his death in the eighties. Its fate has never been satisfactorily cleared up. The Ascot races Gold Cup fell to a similar fate, but with perhaps no greater shock than the loss of the Clare

cup brought to Irish sportsmen. It will be remembered that the Gold Cup was stolen about twenty years ago from the tent in the Royal enclosure at Ascot while on exhibition and guarded by detectives in the middle of the big race. It was never recovered.

The Clare Gold cup bore a humorous inscription on it :-

"That future sportsmen well may know  
"The source from which this cup did flow  
"It there records — The sons of Clare,  
"For steeds renowned, and woman fair  
"Two hundred guineas did subscribe  
"To him who's of the sporting tribe  
"Tom Steel, who did the fund collect  
"Its shape and beauty, both direct  
"Completed it, a golden store,  
"In seventeen hundred ninety four  
"In Clare to rest till Clare's no more".

In 1816, the winner was Mr. James Creagh's Whitenose.

In 1830 William Smith O'Brien spoke against O'Connell's manhood suffrage bill defending the borough system. William O'Brien, as he was christened, for he assumed the name Smith only on the death of his maternal grandfather as we have seen, was a kindhearted man, if we may judge for his zeal to improve the condition of the poor in Ireland, and to bring relief to the aged. In February 1831 he brought in a Bill for this purpose, but it failed to pass the Commons.

He refrained from voting on the second reading of the Reform bill, but supported General Gascoyne's amendment on 19th. April 1831.

After the general election four years later, he again brought the attention of the Commons to the poor laws, seconding Sir Richard Musgrave's motion for leave to bring in a bill for the relief of the poor in Ireland. He had been returned M.P. for the County of Limerick.

William Smith O'Brien wanted to see a board of National education established in Ireland, and an improvement in the country's elementary education as well.

He introduced his own bill for the relief of the poor in Ireland which was read a second time in May 1836, but it was dropped and he supported the second reading of the Irish Poor Law bill in the following year.

He advocated the payment of the Roman Catholic Clergy by the state, considering the Maynorth grant was inadequate. In 1839 he brought in a bill for the registration of voters in Ireland, and he considered that the corn-laws should remain, or damage would result to agriculture. William Smith seemed to take a wide interest in all questions of the day in parliament, and to have time to study and take part in their debate. He must have been a hard worker himself, and had the sympathy of workers at heart. He now seconded a motion for the appointment of a select committee to enquire into the causes of discontent among the working classes, and saw a partial solution to it in the free immigration to the Colonies.

In February 1841 he supported the second reading of the Parliamentary Voters (Ireland) Bill, and later in the same year he was advocating the appointment of a minister of public instruction.

He approved of the manner that the ministry in 1841 had been governing Ireland declaring in his speech on the address, that it had approached the principles upon which alone Ireland should now be governed. Here he seems to have clearly expressed his opinion, that there was much still to be done to improve the general state of Ireland, which he always had at heart.

He was then not satisfied with the manner in which the act for the relief of the Irish poor was being administered, and kept the question before the House of Commons, by moving for a select committee to be appointed to look into the matter, but his motion was defeated by a majority of eighty five.

His activities extended to strenuously opposing the Arms Bill, and threatened that, he would divide the House at every stage of the bill, and on every clause of it.

About this time the Lord Chancellor of Ireland removed Daniel O'Connell from the list of magistrates. The act incensed William Smith, who resigned his seat on the bench, as a protest against what he thought a grossly arbitrary act. But he was two years later re-appointed a justice of the peace, at the request of his co-magistrates of Limerick.

On the 4 July 1843, William Smith O'Brien made a final effort, though still an opponent to Repeal, to obtain justice for Ireland, and moved that the House should consider the "causes of the discontent at the time prevailing there with a view to the redress of grievances, and to the establishment of a system of just and impartial government in that part of the United Kingdom".

On that occasion he made a fine speech outlining the grievances and classes of Ireland. He accused the British Government, and the British parliament for having misgoverned Ireland, and this effort showed, that he was fast losing patience at the delay in redressing grievances, and of improving the methods employed in the government of the country.

His motion was debated for five days, but was eventually defeated by a majority of seventy nine votes. This seemed to have decided O'Brien to formally join the Repeal Association, having now despaired of obtaining relief from parliament. That was in October 1843. He never favored a form of confederacy for Ireland, believing now that the repeal of the parliamentary union was the only solution.

In 1846 he angered the House of Commons by refusing to act as a member of a railway committee to which he had been appointed a member, and by 133 votes to 13 he was found guilty of a contempt of the House, and was committed to custody of the Sergeant of Arms. After a month he was unanimously discharged by the House. He wanted no one but the representatives of the Irish nation to legislate for Ireland, and considered that Irishmen should not meddle with the affairs of England or Scotland, except so far as they might be connected with the interests of Ireland or with the general policy of the empire.

About this time William Smith was advocating in the "Nation" starting model farms and agricultural schools, colonization of waste lands and a national system of railways for Ireland. He founded the Irish Confederation with the assistance of Duffy, and other prominent seceders from the Repeal Association. Its first meeting took place on 13 January 1847. The same month he drew attention of the House of Commons to the state of distress in Ireland, and moved a resolution in favor of imposing a tax upon the estates of Irish absentee proprietors, but it was defeated by 70 votes to 17.

At a meeting of the Confederation in 1848, he carried a resolution embodying the service purposes for which the confederation had been formed. An Irish parliament was to be got by the combination of classes, and by the force of opinion, exercised by constitutional means. Mitchell had aimed at more violent means, but the Corporation would not agree to his views.

William Smith began at this time to advocate the formation of an Irish National Guard, a policy that he had previously opposed, due

to the circumstances of the French Revolution of 1848, and the Irish famine. He feared invasion, also.

He propounded his plans at a meeting of the conference held in the music hall in Abbey Street, Dublin. To obtain support for his political programme for Ireland, he, with Meagher and Holywood, visited Paris, and saw Lamartine, hoping to get support from the French Government but he found no encouragement. The government was not disposed to interfere in internal affairs of the British Empire, so he returned with his friends much disappointed with the result.

He returned through London, where on 10 April he made his last speech in the House of Commons. William Smith was now showing signs of truculence, and warned the government that an Irish government might be set up in Dublin, if Ireland's claims for a separate legislation were denied. Across the floor of the House he was called a "traitor" to the Crown. He replied boldly :

"If it is treason to profess disloyalty to this house and to the  
"Government of Ireland by the parliament of Great Britain—if that  
"be treason, I avow the treason".

He confessed that he had urged his countryman to arm. The government decided that this open disloyalty to the Crown must be put a stop to, and a halt made to the activities of the Confederation. William Smith was accordingly arrested and tried before Lord Chief Justice Blackburne, and a special jury in the Court of the Queens Bench, Dublin, for his speech at the meeting of the Irish Confederation on the previous 15th. of March. The jury disagreed to the charge of sedition between themselves, and were discharged without returning a verdict.

Now the confederation decided, there should be an insurrection, and he visited the south of Ireland to obtain support. On returning to Ireland a war directory was formed consisting of Dillon, Meagher, O'Gorman, McGee, and Devin Reilly.

A decision was taken to fight when news reached them that the Habeas Corpus Act had been suspended by the government. The plan was to raise Kilkenny and Cashel, but the response was small, only a few ill-armed countrymen joined the movement ; but after gathering adherents in the following few days, he attacked a body of police, 46 strong, under the command of sub-inspector Trant, who put up a defence, near Ballingarry ; the scene of the

fight was subsequently humorously called "Widow McCormac's Cabbage Garden".

But this attack failed, and the peasants fled. An offer of £ 500 for the capture of William Smith was made, and he succeeded for some days in concealing himself ; but was eventually taken at Thurles railway station by a man called Hulme, who was a railway guard. He was lodged in Kilmainham gaol, and tried at Clonmel by a special commission of three judges :- Lord Chief Justice Blackburne. Lord Chief Justice Doherty and Mr. Justice Moore on 28 September 1848. After nine days trial he was found guilty of high treason, with a recommendation of the jury that his life should be spared. On the 9th. day he was sentenced by Blackburne to be hanged, drawn and quartered, as the death penalty read in those days.

Only seven weeks earlier, Charles F. Greville was entering in his famous diary of passing events, his impressions and ideas of William Smith O'Brien. On the 8th of August 1848 the entry reads :-

"On coming to town yesterday found news of William Smith O'Brien's capture, which some think is a good thing and some a bad one; some say he is mad, some are for hanging him, some for transporting, others for letting him go ; in short, quot homines tot sententiae ; He is a good for nothing, conceited, contemptible fellow, who has done a great deal of mischief and deserves to be hung, but it will probably be very difficult to convict him".

"The Greville Memoirs" — Vol. 8. 1882 Edition.

Greville was clerk to the Council in three reigns, George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria, and, was probably accurately expressing English contemporary views of William Smith O'Brien. Greville wished him no good, and was probably as pleased with the Judge's verdict that he was to be hanged, as he must have been disappointed, when the conviction was quashed, and sentenced to transportation substituted.

While Clerk to the Council, Greville had had exceptional opportunities of meeting the public men of the time, and of studying the changing phases of political and Court life.

He seems to have tripped up rather badly in his assessment of O'Brien's character and abilities ; both men died the same year, in 1864.

Had Charles Greville survived another six years, he might have strolled down O'Connell Street in Dublin with his diary in

hand ; one eye on the diary and the other on the fine statue raised in 1870 to this Irish hero's memory.

The House of Commons ordered the Speaker to issue a new writ for election for the County of Limerick, declaring the seat vacant, William Smith O'Brien having been judged guilty of treason.

His sentence was commuted by Queen Victoria but Smith O'Brien at first objected to this, declaring he would sooner die than be transported, and insisted that the government had no power to transport him. An act to clear the point was passed, with a title reading :- "An Act to remove doubts concerning the transportation of offenders under judgment of death, to whom mercy may be extended to Ireland".

He was put on board the Swift from Kingstown to Tasmania. On reaching Hobart he was offered a ticket-of-leave which he refused to accept. He was subsequently removed to Port Arthur, where his health seems to have broken down and he accepted a ticket-of-leave, and was allowed to live in the district of New Norfolk.

A pardon was granted to him on 26 July 1854 on condition that he should not return to the United Kingdom. That year he went to Brussels to reside with his family, where he spent much of his time in writing. He published in Dublin in 1856, his "Principles of Government, or Meditations in Exile", in two volumes. Two remarkable volumes in view of subsequent history.

William Smith eventually was granted an unconditional pardon, and returned to Ireland. He took no further part in politics, but contributed articles to the "Nation" on Irish topics.

He went in 1859 to America where he delivered some lectures, returning the same year. His health failed and he died at the Penrhyn Arms, Bangor, North Wales on the 18th. June 1864, at the age of sixty.

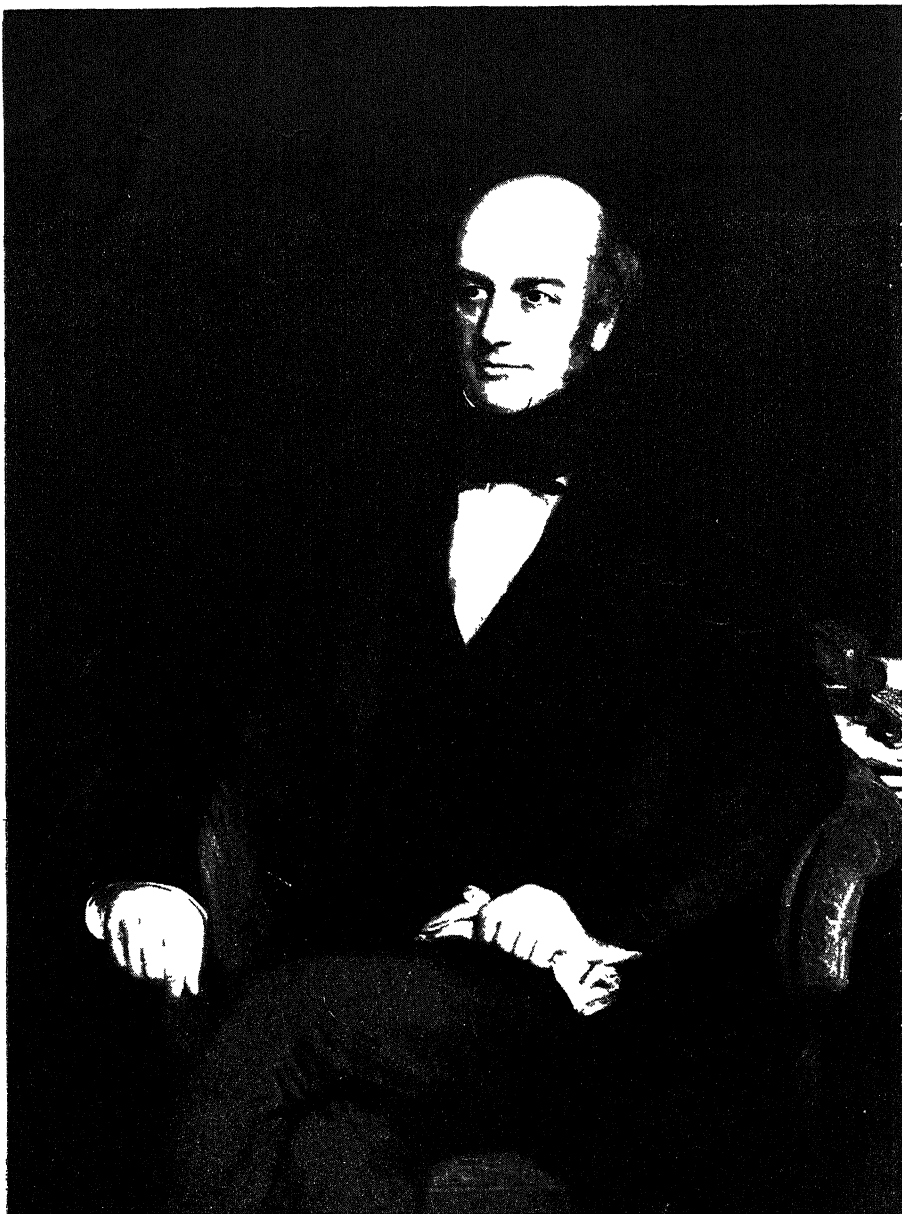
His body was brought to Dublin on the 23rd. of June, which was made the scene of a great nationalist demonstration. The following day it was removed to Rathronan churchyard in County Limerick.

In order to avoid confiscation he previously conveyed his property in 1848 to trustees for the benefit of his family, on his return to Ireland he had began proceedings against them, and a compromise was arrived at, whereby he was formally to resign his position as a landlord, and in consideration accept an annuity of two thousand pounds a year.



*Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Baronet, the eldest son of Sir Lucius O'Brien 3rd Baronet; he built the present Castle of Dromoland on the Site of the Queen Anne Mansion, which had itself replaced an O'Brien stronghold similarly sited.*

*He died in 1837.*



*Sir Lucius O'Brien, 5th Baronet, and 13th Baron Inchiquin upon succeeding to the Barony on the death of his kinsman in 1855 admiral James O'Brien 3rd Marquis of Thomond, who was the 12th Baron Inchiquin. Born in 1800 died in 1872.*

*Painted by Catterson Smith P.R.H.A.*



*William Smith, maternal grandfather  
of William Smith O'Brien M.P.*

*William Smith O'Brien, M.P. brother of Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin. Born at Dromoland Castle, County Clare, on 17 October 1803, died on 18th June 1864. A prominent member of the Irish Parliament, leading a strange political career, defying the English Government in its conduct of Irish affairs in the interests of his countrymen. He was sentenced to be "hanged drawn and quartered" in 1848, but in 1854 he was granted an unconditional pardon by the English Government save that he should not return to Ireland. He died an Irish National hero. His statue stands in o'Connell street in the heart of Dublin.*



*Catherine Keightley, grand daughter of the 1st Lord Clarendon Lord Chancellor of England, and daughter of Lady Frances Hyde by her marriage to Right Honorable Thomas Keightley Lord Treasurer of Ireland. She married Lucius O'Brien eldest son of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st Baronet of Dromoland, County Clare. She was first cousin of Queens Mary and Anne of England, whose father and mother were James II and Lady Anne Hyde.*

When his elder brother Lucius was confirmed in the barony of Inchiquin by the Committee of Privileges of the House of Lords, on the 11th of April 1862, his surviving brothers and sisters, with the exception of William Smith O'Brien were by royal licence granted the style and precedence of the younger children of a baron. The fine statue to him by Thomas Farrell, R.H.A. at the end of O'Connell Street, Dublin, close to O'Connell's bridge was erected in 1870, six years after his death.

Eighty years have now passed, and the causes for which William Smith O'Brien fought have come about ; self-government for Ireland, and a consequent amelioration of the standard of living in the country, and of the condition of the poor.

Any impartial critic, who knew the state of Ireland twenty five years ago, cannot but remark on the improved condition of the poor, and in general economic health of the country since self government was restored.

In William Smith's time it could hardly be maintained, that an English House of Commons had either the time or the disposition to give such attention to Ireland, as its affairs demanded. And now the recently signed "Charter of the Nations" has incorporated the principle of self-government, and the right of independence to small as well as to large countries.

It is easier now to appraise, in the light of modern developments, the value of the vision and determination of the man, who was prepared to sacrifice his life for a principle now universally accorded ; and who became involved in charges of sedition, and of treason, in his attempts to achieve self-government for Ireland, because he saw in it the only solution possible for his country's welfare.

Edward O'Brien was William Smith O'Brien's younger brother, who was born in 1806, and married Louisa Dawson in 1839 ; she outlived him sixty-nine years, dying in 1908, he died in 1840, at the early age of 34 years. Edward had already attained some distinction as an author. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, whence he graduated B.A. in 1829, and M.A. in 1832. He was later called to the bar. He died at Whitkirk Vicarage, Yorkshire, the residence of his brother-in-law, the Revd. A. Martineau on the 9th. May 1840.

His posthumous work described by those who knew Edward O'Brien, as a portrait of himself, depicts a lawyer of ideal holiness. It was entitled "The Lawyer" : "his character and Rule of Holy Life, after the manner of George Herbert's Country Parson".

His manner was of the style of Herbert or Hooker, with a simplicity of purpose as characteristic of a bygone age. The lawyer visits the temple of God, meditating "like Isaac of old, upon divine things, or communing with a friend as he walks, after the manner of the disciples journeying to Emmaus, seeking out the poor and assisting the minister in catechising the poor children of the parish". At the end is a beautifully written "Lawyers Prayer". The text and the notes show that Edward O'Brien was widely read. Sir Aubrey de Vere, wrote an able appreciation of it in the *Dublin University Magazine* XXI 42 - 54.

His son Edward Arthur was born in 1840, and married Josephine Morey of New York in 1877. She died in 1916. He died without issue in 1912. He inherited much of his father's talent but was principally a newspaper man, who lived most of his life in America or Canada. He occasionally visited this country and died in the Isle of Wight on one of his visits ; he was buried there. His wife died in America, and having expressed a desire to be buried beside her husband, his cousin by marriage the late Richard Douglass, her executor and lawyer, was obliged in the middle of the 1914-1918 war to obtain a special permit to visit New York and bring back her body. This was a difficult task and accomodation was scarce. Douglass recounted how he slept in a cabin with her body in the coffin for ten days sea-voyage home to England, which, due to war conditions, took more time than is normally required.

The tragic part of it all, from Douglass' point of view, was, that by her will he was to receive a fee for his services as executor, and the voyage expenses absorbed most of it, her estate having diminished to slender proportions before her death.

The next brother of William Smith O'Brien, was Robert, who like his still younger brother, Henry, with their four sisters, assumed the title of Honorable, upon their eldest brother Sir Lucius O'Brien, 5th. Bart succeeding to the Barony of Inchiquin in 1855.

Robert was born in 1809, and married in 1835, Elinor, eldest daughter of Sir Aubrey de Vere, and died in 1870. She died in 1889. He had two sons and three daughters :-

1.—Aubrey Stephen O'Brien, born in 1837, died 1898, married in 1871 Lucy Wynne who died in 1932 left issue.

2.—Robert Vere, born in 1842, died in 1913, married in 1883 Florence Arnold Foster who died in 1936, left issue.

1.—Charlotte, who died unmarried in 1903.

2.—Eleanor, who married in 1876 William Monsell, who died in 1887. She left issue and died in 1920.

3.—Mary, who was eldest of the three sisters, married C.S. Perceval L.L.D. in 1868, and died in 1924 leaving issue. He died in 1889 :- Dudley born 1874, Margaret born 1870 died 1943, Edith born 1872, died 1937. Dudley married in 1914 Hon. Mary Massey ; and has Philip Edward, born in 1915, and Mary.

The youngest son of Sir Edward O'Brien 4th. Bart. and brother of the 13th Baron Inchiquin was Henry O'Brien ; he was born in 1813, and married Henrietta, daughter of John Godley of Killig, Co. Leitrim in 1839. She died in 1872. He died in 1895. His eldest son was Edward O'Brien, born in 1843, who married Mary Lamb in 1867. She died in 1939. He became Deputy Commissioner of the Punjaub, and died in 1894, leaving issue. His second son was Murrough John, born in 1842, and died in 1914. In 1873 he married Elinor Waller, who died in 1916, leaving issue :-

The four daughters were :-

1.—Katharine, who married in 1867, the Revd. F.B. Toulmin who died in 1924. She died leaving issue in 1912.

2.—Annabella, married in 1871 John Watt Smyth, Judge of Lahore. She died in 1907 leaving issue.

3.—Angela Geraldine born in 1852 married in 1873 Gerald Wilson of Cliffe Hall, Darlington, who died in 1902. She died leaving issue, 1941.

4.—Grace, married Col. R. McKerrell, who died in 1925. She died without issue in 1890.

Now we may return to give an account of Lucius 13th. Baron Inchiquin, having written of his younger brothers and sisters. He was born in 1800, and married twice, firstly in 1837 to Mary Fitzgerald of Adelphi, Co. Clare, which is situated on Lake Inchiquin ; by her, who died in 1852, he had one son who succeeded him in 1872 Edward Donough 14th Baron Inchiquin, and five daughters :-

1.—Juliana, born in 1837, who married in 1858 Col. MacDonnell of New Hall, Co. Clare, five miles from Ennis ; she died in 1925 leaving issue :- William, and Violet, surviving.

2.—Charlotte born in 1840, married the Revd. George Stopford Ram, who died at Dromoland in 1889, she died in 1918 leaving issue :- Two sons, Edward now deceased, and George ; who died in 1948 ; and five daughters.

3.—Mary Grace, born in 1842, who married Abel John Ram, K.C. who died in 1920. She died in 1912 leaving issue :- Sir Lucius Granville Ram, and Irene who married in 1919 G. Le Blanc Smith.

4.—Ellen, who died in 1860.

5.—Augusta, born in 1848 and died in 1861.

Lord Inchiquin married secondly, Louisa Finucane, daughter of Major James Finucane in 1854. She was the grand-child of the Rt. Hon. Mathias Finucane, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Dublin, and her mother was the judge's daughter Jane, father and mother being cousins had the same surnames.

By her who survived him by thirty years, dying in 1904, born in 1821, she had two sons and four daughters :-

1.—Lucius Murrough O'Brien, born 1857, died without issue in 1939.

2.—William Turlough, born 1863, married 1901 Henrietta Browne. He died in 1943, leaving Turlough born 1907 who married Catharine Senter, and Ethne Lucia, married 1932 Valentine Jackson of the Royal Air Force. Turlough has Diana born in 1941, and Patrick Brian born in 1943.

3. Anastasia married in 1879 Colonel Charles Warde, who died in 1912. She died in 1938, leaving issue :- John O'Brien Warde, Blanche, and Dorothy who married Harold Streatfield.

4.—Norah, married Richard Douglass, who died in 1939. She died in 1927 leaving issue :- Lucius and Margaret, who married Colonel Carpenter and has issue, John and Michael.

5.—Alicia Annabel, a sister of Mercy at Clewer Windsor died in 1939.

6.—Louisa, born 1863, twin with her brother William Turlough. She died in 1940.

Lord Inchiquin devoted much of his time at Dromoland, improving the roads on the estate at Dromoland. He closed up the high road that went through Mahon village, within his demesne, took down the cottages, and found dwellings for the inhabitants in other parts of the estate, he built an alternative road round one border of the demesne, which encloses some 1,500 acres and is about six miles round.

There remains in the valley, the old peal tower of Mahon, which was inhabited till about seventy years ago, but which has now lost its roof, and begins to fall into decay. Lord Inchiquin had succeeded his father, Sir Edward 4th Bart. in 1837. He lived to 1872. There is a portrait in oils of Lucius at Dromoland by Catter-

son Smith P.R.H.A. and a pair of excellent miniatures of himself and his first wife, painted by Sir Frederick Burton, R.H.A. in 1840, an artist, who was born at Corofin in County Clare, and rose to distinction as an artist in Ireland.

Lord Inchiquin, as was explained, had to substantiate his claim to the Barony before the Committee of Privileges in the House of Lords, upon the death in 1855 of his kinsman James 3rd. Marquis of Thomond. The large number of carefully grouped packets of papers, and documents, which he had assorted in the muniment room at Dromoland, preparatory to the trial of his claim, shows an immense industry and determination on his part to succeed in these proceedings.

He left sixteen calf-skin books, each indexing either complete documents, or extracts, which he had written out in his own handwriting in each book. Some of the books contained extracts of wills, mortgages and settlements which he conceived might have a bearing on the evidence in his proceedings ; and relating to the several important branches of the O'Brien family, such as the Earls of Thomond, the Viscounts Clare, The Ennistymon O'Briens, the Earls of Inchiquin, and Dromoland O'Briens, and so on ; some books giving shortly sketched out pedigrees, showing inter-relationships.

Another book contains correspondence that passed between branches of the family. Another of events of importance in the family and its branches, such as births, deaths, and marriages, and principally back to AD. 1543, the year in which Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist last King of Thomond accepted the Barony of Inchiquin to which he was about to claim succession, after an interval of 300 years.

No doubt there had been much research, which he seems to have made a personal hobby of, to find evidence to prove births, deaths, and marriage in two parallel lines of the family ; The Marquises of Thomond (Barons Inchiquin) and his own line.

Twelve generations were involved in the ascent from 1855 back to 1543, and ten from 1543 to himself.

Writing in 1860 on this point, John O'Donoghue, in his "Historical Memoir of the O'Briens" p. 485, says :-

"The present representative (referring to Lucius 13th Baron)  
"of the barons of Inchiquin is Sir Lucius O'Brien Bart. who is ninth  
"in descent from Donough, third son of Morrough, who surrendered

"the title of King of Thomond to Henry the eighth, and accepted the "barony of Inchiquin to himself and his heirs."

"The devolution of a peerage to be claimed exclusively "through commoners for upwards of three centuries before the common ancestor is reached, that ancestor having held a sceptre, may "be regarded as one of the curiosities of the peerage".

In the front page of one of these volumes, Lord Inchiquin expresses the hope, that the papers in question and his volumes of Indexes should be preserved considering that they would provide useful material for a history of the family, and should be kept at Dromoland.

He says he has left no stone unturned to be prepared to reply to any point in opposition to his claim that counsel might put forward. He says, evidently writing in 1861, after the success of his claim, that one of the difficulties to overcome, was, that the Tanist's eldest son, Donough, had been found guilty and executed for treason it being argued that Donough's son Conor could not therefore succeed to the title of honour that his father bore.

In this case, however, a full pardon and restoration of his estates was granted to Donough after his death, on the ground that the letter of protection given him to visit, Limerick in 1582 was in order and that the plea of the Sheriff, who arrested him and hanged him at its gates, that there was a fault in his letter of protection, was mistaken and groundless.

Donough's kinsman, the Earl of Thomond was the guardian of his son Conor, and eventually a complete restitution of the land was made to Conor. The judges accepted the plea that the title of Baron Inchiquin, being an hereditament, likewise with the estates, should continue in unbroken succession to Donough's heirs.

About a century later a somewhat similar case occurred in 1641, in the case of the 1st. Earl of Strafford. Thomas Wentworth, created 1st. Earl by Charles 1st. was by that King and Parliament attainted ; his lands confiscated, and he was hanged.

His son, William, who survived him, was created Earl of Strafford of the "second creation", in the same year by the King, on 1st. December 1641. Parliament, 21 years later, in 1662, reversed his father's attainder, and though already 1st. Earl of the 2nd. creation became 2nd. Earl of the first creation by this reversal.

There is a parallelism in the case of Donough O'Brien, although he possessed no title which at his decease could be then restored to his heirs upon the reversal of his attainder.

His lands were restored, as were the Earl of Strafford's, to his son. But it resulted, that Donough, had he enjoyed a title, would have had it restored in the 16th. century, when his attainder was reversed ; but it remained for his descendant three centuries later in the person of Lucius, 13th. Baron Inchiquin, in 1861, to apply to the Committee of Privileges, to say in effect that, retrospectively Donough had succeeded to and passed down to his heirs, the Barony of Inchiquin from his father Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist, and first Baron.

The claimant, Lucius Lord Inchiquin, was tenth in descent from the Tanist, and the present Lord Inchiquin, who is the 16th Baron, is the 13th. in descent from him. A remarkable circumstance in the succession being that the descent all the way, and covering 300 years, has been through thirteen eldest sons. To put it in another way, 13 eldest sons in succession have inherited the estates devised by the first Lord Inchiquin in 1581 to his son Donough. There are at Dromoland bound and printed copies of the case for counsel, and the proceedings before the committee of Privileges of the Lords which heard the claim.

#### — THE GREAT GOLD FIND

In Lord Inchiquin's time, while living at Dromoland some workmen, one day brought in some ancient gold ornaments that they had found in the ground, while working on the railway between Limerick and Ennis then under construction. They told the story that they had seen these ornaments hard by the place they were working, and while bending down to draw water from a pond, saw the glitter of gold. This was near Ballykilty, some three miles from Dromoland, and it was in March 1854.

They wished to dispose of some solid gold bracelets. It was natural that such men would call on one or more of the large land proprietors who would be interested and most likely to have the money to pay for them. Lord Inchiquin bought of them three gold bangles, and subsequently two more from a Mr. Wallace, jewellers of Limerick, to whom the finders had made similar offers. It little occurred to anyone that, what became shortly known as the "great Clare find", and which has been described by the Royal Society of Antiquaries as the "largest find of associated gold objects of Bronze Age date, that has now been discovered in Western Europe" had been made.

It soon, however, turned out that the find was greater than was thought and a scramble for the ornaments which were found in a heap of loose stones and in a small chamber 2 ft. by 15 ins. was made by the workmen engaged. They were quickly offered in many directions, as far as Cork and Waterford even, and advertisements appeared in the press of offers to pay the market value of gold for gold ornaments from the find that should be brought to them. With the result that many fine pieces were known to have been melted down through desire of the finders to cash in, and ignorance or carelessness of their additional value as unique ancient gold ornaments. Dr. O. Montelius, a competent authority, figures one of the gold bracelets in the Clare find in his chronology of the Bronze age in the British Isles, assigning its age between the middle of the twelfth to the end of the ninth century B.C. The ornaments were of a bygone age in Irish history, they may, it is thought, be of Spanish, or Phoenician origin, whose countrymen visited Ireland and traded with it.

Mr. E.C.T. Armstrong, vice president of the Society of Antiquaries went to great pains to obtain all possible information of the discovery, and in England the Illustrated London News had some of the ornaments sketched, to be engraved for that paper.

In June 1850, Dr. Todd, well known in Ireland in his day, exhibited a collection of the ornaments at the Royal Irish Academy and a Limerick contemporary, in a description of the find says :-

“We were gratified with an inspection of some of the largest, “most valuable and most beautiful of the Irish ornaments... in the “possession of Mr. William Halpin, of Newmarket-on-Fergus (this “village is one and a half miles from Dromoland Castle, and was “so-re-named by Sir Edward O’Brien 2nd. Bart. from the Newmarket “in England, where he kept race-horses”).

They were discovered, said Dr. Todd, by four labourers, named Gegan, Hancen, Corcoran and another.

It appears that the ornaments were not more than eighteen inches under the surface of one of the little tumuli, or mounds of small stones supposed to have been cooking places of our primitive forefathers, and near a celebrated fort called Laungagh, and near Moughaun lake (this fort is now inside the Dromoland demesne since Lord Inchiquin threw the high road round it, when he closed the road running across the estate by the castle of Moughaun) ; the lake is outside Laungagh Fort and the high road, not more than a mile distant.

It is said that the first ornament that turned up was a small band of gold, this was followed by two or three more circlets, and the workmen, who unearthed them, deceived by their discoloured appearance, fresh from the tomb, where they had been lying buried from gaze for centuries, after a casual glance at them, flung the lot into the lake.

But continuing the work, a perfect layer of splendid gold gorgets turned up, and a hundred or more of a minor size. Mr. William the son of the Mr. William Halpin of Newmarket-on-Fergus some years ago told Mr. D.J. Westropp, the eminent Clare antiquarian, that the ornaments were not found in a cist. The field in which they were found was formerly, well picked from small stones, which were left in small heaps. The workmen, therefore, had only to loosen the stones. The first stroke of the pick disclosed the ornaments, and a scramble took place immediately for them. The find was kept secret for sometime ; then said Mr. Halpin, my father heard of it, and immediately posted up a notice that he would give the market rate for gold for any brought to him. He heard that a very large gold torque had been cut up, and sold to the Limerick jewellers, and his father saw a few parts; and he often pointed out to him in the Museum the ornaments he brought there, as thick as the pieces he saw.

His father had bought up all he could, so as to save them for the museum and had got for them only exactly the value of the gold in them, namely £ 500. His father arrived home at Newmarket-on-Fergus, arriving at 2.30 a.m. having walked there from Limerick (15 miles) with the £ 500 in his pocket. It is thought that a plundering army had surprised the natives, who had hastily buried their treasure and not returned to recover them. Perhaps the spot was lost sight of, or those who knew their whereabouts were killed.

Mr. Westropp, however, was of opinion, that the uniform size and age "of the find" showed that many were engaged in the collection, and that such an army got the ornaments from the one source, probably a crowd of captives.

In his interesting account of the remains at Moughaun Mr. Westropp thinks there was a great hill-town there, which judging from this great find, may have perished in an unrecorded raid from 500 to 700 years B.C. and was never rebuilt, except for the ring-forts built out of the debris of the overturned ramparts. Moughaun Hill stands out prominently on the country side, and is for the most

part of a rocky grey lime stone surface, with fertile patches of grass and moss intermingled. The ringforts are made up of large loose stones, raised evidently for purposes of defence, and encircle the hill at several stages, indicating lines of defence. From stone, hewn from a quarry on the hillside the Castle of Dromoland was constructed more than a century ago. The cutting and chiselling of the vast quantity of stones, used in the construction, ran into a figure believed to have amounted to £ 50,000 for the stonework alone.

It was stated at the time that by the sales of gold ornaments made in Newmarket, Limerick, Waterford and Dublin, some of the working men who came on the find made between them about £ 6,000.

The Revd. James Graves, at a meeting of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society said he had seen ornaments which had been sold for £ 500 at the current price of gold, in Dublin. He, also, told that he had been told by Mr. F. Barnes, the then contractor for that portion of the railway from Limerick to Ennis, that the navvies had his orders to straighten out an inequality which had been left in the dyke bounding a portion of the line passing by the lake of Moughaun, and while doing so a large stone tumbled out and revealed a small chamber rudely built about 15 inches by 2 ft square, and covered at the top by a flag. The cavity was entirely filled with gold ornaments for which there was an immediate scramble by the navvies, who upon dividing the treasure-trove decamped selling their booty here and there.

Sir William Wilde mentions that Dr. Tod "exhibited five gorgets, two neck torques, two unwrought ingots, and no less than 137 rings and armillae, the total weight of which was 174 oz. 11 dwts 7 grains".

Thirteen of the original gold pieces are preserved in the Dublin Museum. One of those had been purchased by a dealer in Antiquities in Oxford. The British Museum in London also possesses thirteen of the original gold penannular rings, belonging to the "great Clare find".

We mentioned that Lord Inchiquin had bought two bracelets from Mr. Wallace, jeweller of Limerick. This gentleman told the story that he was visited in the first instance by one of the working party, who wished to dispose of what he explained, was one half of his share of the gold ornaments, that were his portion, but he had forgotten, where he had placed the other half. His son, years afterwards repairing the thatch in his house, found the concealed orna-

ments, and sold them to Mr. Wallace, the son of the Mr. Wallace, to whom his father had sold his first lot.

Mr. Wallace said, that the man walked into the shop "with a tin bucket full of gold ornaments, which included a crown of ten or twelve points from four to five inches high". Mr. Wallace melted all down except three.

About 150 casts of the ornaments are preserved in the National Museum. Similar ornaments have been found in Scotland, some of which were precisely the same as those found in Clare, and four gold bracelets were found at Beachy Head in Sussex, with a bronze sword. The ornaments are of pure gold, the thirteen in the National Museum, Dublin, weigh 56 oz. 13 dwts. 7 grains ; the thirteen in the British Museum weigh, 21 oz. 5 dwts. 12 grains ; two of Lord Inchiquin's, 12 dwt. 12 grains ; while the total weight of ornaments exhibited by Dr. Todd at the Royal Irish Academy in June 1854 amounted to 174 oz. 11 dwts. 7 grains.

Lucius Lord Inchiquin disposed of his four bracelets in the following manner :- They were all solid gold bangles, one of which exceeded the other three considerably in weight. This he gave to his wife, née Louisa Finucane, who left it to her son, the Honorable Lucius Murrough O'Brien, who died in 1939.

By his will Lucius Murrough who died without issue left it to the present Lord Inchiquin, great grandson of Lucius Lord Inchiquin; it is now in his possession. The other three he gave to his three daughters, Hon. Mrs. Charles MacDonnell (Juliana), Hon. Mrs. George Stopford Ram (Charlotte), and Hon. Mrs. Abel John Ram (Mary). Juliana left hers to her daughter Violet, who now possesses it. Charlotte, who died in 1889, willed that she be buried with it. Mary left hers to her son Sir Lucius Granville Ram, lately senior Counsel to the British Treasury, reputed for his able draughtsmanship of Bills for Parliament, and other Government documents. And just here was a tragedy, for some years ago burglars broke into his fine house at Berkhamsted and stole it with other things, and it was never recovered.

Lucius Lord Inchiquin died in 1872, and was succeeded by his son Edward Donough by his first marriage to Miss Fitzgerald of Adelphi, Lake Inchiquin, Co. Clare. He was the 14th Baron Inchiquin. He was educated at St. Columba's school near Dublin, where four of the pupils at one time were his first cousins. St. Columba was the principal school preparing for the English Universities at that

time. Lord Inchiquin was born in 1839, and was probably at the school about 1853, whence he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree.

Being then in ill health, a year's journey abroad was recommended, and he visited Greece and Egypt in about 1860. He used to recount a visit into a pyramid, when he was passed by a hyena in the corridor, as he came out, and told how it was quite easy in those days to obtain mummies from natives, as the burial places in the country were then unguarded from travelling tourists, who might be willing to risk taking one home as a souvenir. He brought away a mummified alligator, which soon disintegrated in the air, and had to be got rid of. Travelling in those days was very primitive, slow and expensive, and done mostly on camels back. Brigands were about, and his party went armed.

He told of a dream, which he had had on the Upper Nile, that one very close to him, his sister Ellen O'Brien, had died. He dreamed, he said, that she died at some place that he could not name but adjacent to Dromoland Castle. The dream, which he attributed to second sight turned out to have been a correct representation of what happened, for, on returning to Cairo after four months absence, he was acquainted with the news that she had died at her sister Juliana MacDonnell's house of New hall, situated about six miles from Dromoland, and at the date of the dream.

Lord Inchiquin spent most of his time of late years at Dromoland, in early eighties, he constantly attended to his duties in the House of Lords, but taking part only occasionally in its debates, principally when Irish affairs came up for discussion.

He had three sons and one daughter by his first marriage to the Hon. Emily Holmes A'Court, daughter of Lord Heytesbury. She died in 1868 :-

1.—Lucius, who succeeded to the title in 1900, as 15th Baron Inchiquin, and had issue including Donough Edward Foster, the present peer, Phaedrig and Fionn, born 1900 and 1903, and three daughters, Beryl who married Dr. John Gallagher, Griselda and Finvola.

2.—Murrough, who died in 1934, married Marguerite Lewis who survives him, by whom he had Murrough and Edward, born, 1910 and 1915, and are married. Murrough in 1942 to Irene Richards, and Edward to Elizabeth Acland in 1944, daughter of Sir William Dyke Acland 3rd Bart.

3.—Edward, who died in 1943, and married Lady Beatrice Hare, second daughter of the Earl of Listowel, has Terence and Irene, born in 1900 and 1903, both of whom are married ; to Irene Harle in 1928, and Rowland Finn 1928. Irene has married, 2nd, Walter Wilkinson.

4.—Geraldine, who married 1stly George Mahon of Corbally, and secondly John Blood of Ballykilty, both of County Clare had by her 1st marriage :- Bryan, Hester, and Geraldine, born in 1890, 1888 and 1889 who are all married, the daughters having issue. Hester to A.W. Mathew has Alexander, Geraldine and Michael ; Geraldine to Capt. Henn, has William, Robert and Margaret.

Lord Inchiquin married secondly in 1874, the Hon Ellen Harriet white, daughter of the 2nd. Lord Annaly, K.P. of Luttrellstown, Co. Dublin, by whom he had ten children, all but one the youngest, Desmond O'Brien, who was a flying officer in the 1914-1918 Great War and was killed in 1915 on active service aged 20 years, survive.

1.—Clare, married Brigadier General Noel Lowry Corry, who died in 1935, leaving issue by her, who survives, Montagu and Patricia, of whom the former is married and has issue. Montagu married Hon. Mary Biddulph and has Josephine.

2.—Moira, married Sir Frederick Hervey Bathurst, which marriage was dissolved, by whom she has an only son Peter Hervey Bathurst, who has issue. She married secondly, Lt. Commander Peckham, R.N. retired.

3.—Eileen, unmarried, born in 1877.

4.—Maud, unmarried, born in 1878.

5.—Donough, born 1879, married 1st. in 1914 Patricia Dowdeswell who died in 1926. And, secondly Mrs Rose Ades in 1928. There is no issue of either marriage. He is the author of this History of the O'Briens.

Mrs. Rose Ades had two sons by her first marriage, the eldest of whom survives; Major Raymond Ades; Royal Artillery retired 1945. Born in 1915, graduated M.A. Christ Church. Oxford, honors in History and barrister of Inner Temple E.C.

He married in 1940 Stella, <sup>youngest</sup> only daughter of the late Sir Arthur Worley Bart, and Lady Worley. He has Timothy, Susan Jane, and Anthony, born 1941, 1943, and 1947.

Also, Lieut. Edmond Ades, born 1918, graduated Science Honors, B.A. Triunity College, Cambridge, where he become Pre-

sident of the Union Club. He was killed in action at Acroma in 1942, while serving as lieutenant with his regiment, the second Royal Gloucester Hussars.

6.—Beatrice, who was sometime Lady in Waiting to the Queen of Italy, married firstly, Guglielmo Marconi, afterwards Senator and created Marchese Marconi who died in 1937, and has been succeeded in the Marquessate by his son Guilio. Other issue of this marriage are Degna, who married Signor Paresce, and Goia who, with her brother, is unmarried. This marriage was dissolved at Fiume, and Beatrice married secondly, the Marchese Marignoli di Montecorona, by whom she has a daughter Flaminia, who married in 1946 William L. Lack. The Marchese died in January 1948.

7.—Lilah, married firstly the Honorable Coulson Fellowes eldest son of Lord De Ramsey who died in 1915, by whom she has a son, Hon. John David Coulson Fellowes, who married in 1946 Louise, daughter of Admiral Sir James Domville. She married secondly Signor Nobili Riccardo Assanti K.M. There is no issue of this marriage.

8.—Henry Barnaby, born 1887 married Lady Helen Baillie Hamilton in 1925, and has issue, two sons, Desmond and Michael, born in 1926 and 1928.

9.—Doreen, married Hon. Richard Coke, which marriage has since been dissolved, uncle of the present Earl of Leicester, by whom she has issue :-

1.—Nell born 1910 married 1930 Mr. Luddington of Norfolk and has issue.

2.—Moir a born 1911 died 1945.

3.—Hersey, born 1915 married in 1946 Peter Marsham.

4.—Richard, born 1918 a Major in the Scots guards.

5.—Bridget, born 1924 married Thomas Richard Edward Moss in 1943.

10.—Desmond, born 1895, killed in action in February 1915, while flying in a bombing raid over the coast of Belgium. He was unmarried.

Lord Inchiquin was a knight of Saint Patrick and Lord Lieutenant of the County of Clare.

Announcing his death on the 8th of April 1900 in its issue of the 10th of April, the Times newspaper quotes its Dublin Correspondent's telegraphed message from Dublin the previous night :-

"In view of the Queen's presence in Ireland it is interesting to" "note that the late Lord Inchiquin, as head of the historic house of" "O'Brien, was the only representative in the direct line now in the" "peerage of any native Irish family who held Royal rank."

The message continues :- "Lord Inchiquin was extremely popular" "among all classes in his native county, and was a large employer of" "labour on his estate at Dromoland. Until recently he took an" "active part in local affairs, and was for many years chairman of the" "Ennis Board of Guardians. He was disqualified by his rank" "from serving on the grand jury, but his advice and opinions were" "always at the service of and always gratefully received" by that "body".

Queen Victoria was then on a visit to Ireland after a lapse of many years. The Daily Telegraph of the same date, announcing Lord Inchiquin's death, said :-

"By the death of Lord Inchiquin, the representative of one of the" "oldest families in Ireland, and the descendant of the most famous of" "of its ancient kings passes away, his lordship having expired at his" "residence, Dromoland Castle, County Clare, after a brief illness". "Few titled houses", it continues, "have had more vicissitudes. Am-" "ong its early members was the celebrated Chieftain Brian Boromhe," "who was killed at Clontarf in 1014."

"His successors became kings of Munster, then became kings of" "Thomond, and at last accepted the Barony of Inchiquin from Henry" "VIII."

"Subsequently the title was raised to an Earldom, then it merged" "into the Marquisate of Thomond. The Barony of Inchiquin pas-" "sed to Sir Lucius O'Brien Bart, of Dromoland Castle, who became" "13th Baron on the death of his O'Brien kinsman the 3rd Marquis" "of Thomond in 1855. The right was confirmed by the Lords' Com-" "mittee of Privileges in 1862. This nobleman was the father of the" "peer who has just passed away."

His eldest son, Lucius, who succeeded him as 15th. Baron in 1900 was born in 1865, and died in 1929. He married in 1896 Ethel Jane Foster, who died in 1940, and by whom he had three sons and three daughters :-

1.—Donough Edward Foster born 1897, now 16th Baron Inchiquin. He married in 1921 the Hon. Anne Thesiger, daughter of

Viscount Chelmsford, one time Vice Roy of India, he has issue two daughters, Deirdre and Grania, born 1924 and 1928.

2.—Katherine Beryl, who married John Gallagher in 1929, and has Maeve, Neular and Fergal, born in 1930, 1934 and 1937.

3.—Phaedrig, born in 1900, married in 1945 Vera Winter.

4.—Fionn, born in 1903, married in 1939 Josephine Bembaron, and has issue, Fiona, born 1941, and Conor, born 1943.

5.—Griselda, born 1906 unmarried.

6.—Finvola, born 1910 unmarried.

Lord Inchiquin 15th. Baron was very talented. He painted well, and was particularly clever at pen and ink sketches. He catalogued all the pictures at Dromoland Castle, making a pen and ink sketch of each to more easily identify them. He also sketched in this album other interesting objects inside and outside the house, designing in pen and ink a sketch of a quite unique shaped sundial, from which a stone model was carved ; it stands in the flower garden at Dromoland.

He made a clever sketch for the catalogue of the ancient Spanish Armada table, referred to as having come from Lemeneagh Castle, and a relic from one of the ships of the Spanish Armada.

The album is preserved at Dromoland. He spent some years in the army, in course of which he served in India and Egypt, and after retiring, spent his time between his wife's place, Moor Park, Ludlow, in Shropshire, and Dromoland. He did not engage in politics, his time being fully engaged in looking after the two estates in Ireland and England.

There is a picture by Herbert Draper R.A. of his wife, a full length, which commands a striking position in the fine dining room at the castle. Portraits of eldest sons in ten generations back to Donough O'Brien, son of Murrough, the Tanist, who was last King of Thomond in 1543, are hung on the walls of this room, besides portraits of a few of their wives.

His eldest son follows in his father's footsteps, in living at the castle attending to the many duties and obligations imposed on every owner of a large estate in Ireland. There is a kitchen garden of about nine acres inside and outside the garden proper, much purchasing, fattening and selling of cattle to be done, and a dairy of considerable size to keep going. During the late war 1939-45 the Irish army were billeted, to some 1,500 strong in the park and some officers in one part of the house.

Their requirements in milk, butter and vegetables, were considerable, and all were supplied from the estate. The military have left, but Rinnana, six miles off, the new flying ground on the banks of the Shannon, where the American passenger air service sets down its passengers for the United Kingdom, has developed in size and importance ; and Lord Inchiquin's farm at Dromoland is supplying a share of its requirements. The timber on the estates are extensive, and foresters are kept to look after the woods.

Lord Inchiquin was an officer in the Rifle Brigade, and was on Lord Chelmsford's staff in India, where he met his wife, her father being then Viceroy. Lady Inchiquin takes a very active part with her husband in all his activities, and in every way is an admirable chätelaine at the castle. There is a portrait at Dromoland of Lord Inchiquin by Maurice Codmore, painted in 1946.

As this book pretends to being a history of the O'Brien family, enough has been said already of the present generation. It will be for a twenty-first century scribe to sound its praises.

Reference has been made in another chapter, to family tombs at St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick in the 17th. and 18th. centuries, but there are also monuments or windows to the memory of later members of the family, who have been buried there. It is not possible to speak of all, but a few can be here referred to of some special interest in the later years.

There is an imposing early English three-light east window, with beautiful glass, erected in 1860 as a memorial to Augustus Stafford O'Brien, who in 1847, by Royal license, assumed the name of Stafford. He was the eldest son of Mr. Stafford O'Brien, of Blatherwycke Park in Northamptonshire, and of Cratloe Woods (Stone Hall) in County Clare. His mother was Emma, sister of the Earl of Gainsborough. He was born in 1811, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and afterwards filled the post of secretary to the Admiralty. He was returned to Parliament in 1841, and down to the date of his death he continued to represent Northamptonshire North as a conservative and protectionist. He was a descendant of Sir Donough O'Brien's (1st. Bart) second son, Henry O'Brien, whom we have mentioned as the progenitor of this line of O'Briens, which is an off-shoot of the Dromoland branch.

To the Honble. Robert O'Brien, brother of Lucius 13th. Baron Inchiquin of Dromoland Castle, is a two-light stained glass window,

on the south side of the chancel, at the foot of which is the inscription :-

"The Hon. Robert O'Brien. Born in 1809, died in 1870,  
"In memory of his services in the Restoration of the Church".

He married in 1835 Eleanor Jane Alice Lucy, daughter of Sir Aubrey De Vere Bart. of Curragh Chase, formerly M.P. for Limerick City, to whose memory there is a brass plate immediately beneath the window. Robert O'Brien worked very strenuously for the welfare of the Cathedral, and did much towards carrying out important renovations. His body is buried in the family vault at Kilnasoolagh two miles from Dromoland. His brother, Lord Inchiquin, is the only other member of the family, who has up to now been buried in the vault, which is outside the church.

Lucius O'Brien, Dean of the Cathedral and nephew of the 13th. Baron, was principally instrumental in getting erected a fine stone reredos inside the cathedral in 1907. Very many of the family of O'Brien contributed to the cost. £ 1,000 was raised, and upon it is the following inscription.

"Sit Laus deo  
"Per hanc operam gratias agit Deo  
"Gens O'Brien pro fundatore  
"benefactoribusque istius Ecclesiae  
"Sit Laus Deo".

of which the following is a translation :-

"To God be the Praise  
"By reason of this work the O'Brien family give thanks  
"To God for the founder, and benefactors of this Church  
"To God be the Praise".

The Dean was the third son of William Smith O'Brien, of Cahermoyle in County Limerick. He was born in 1842, and educated at St. Columba's College, Dublin. There are two memorials to him in the Cathedral of St. Mary. In the Jeb Chapel is a stained glass window, representing the Virgin and Child, and St. Luke with this inscription.

"To the glory of God  
"In Loving memory of Lucius Henry O'Brien  
"Dean of this Cathedral from 1905 to 1913  
"Erected by his family".

The second consists of two brass tablets on the north side of the chancel upon which are engraved inscriptions to his memory.

To Aubrey V.M. O'Brien, on the lime-stone archading on the north side of the chancel is an inscription in raised gold letters :-

"To the memory of Aubrey V.M. O'Brien

"Captain R.F.A. born 7 June 1882

"Fell in action at Ypres 1st November 1914".

He was the third son of Edward William O'Brien of Cahermoyle, Co. Limerick, by his second wife Julia Mary Marshall daughter of James Garth Marshall of Leeds and Coniston.

The latest memorial to be erected in the cathedral to an O'Brien is, a brass tablet in the chancel, to Donough R. O'Brien, with the following inscription :-

"In loving memory of Donough Richard O'Brien born  
"6 January 1876. Died 2 July 1938 Eldest son of Lucius Henry  
"O'Brien one time Dean of this Cathedral".

He took a deep interest in matters affecting the cathedral.

The burial place of the Dromoland O'Briens has been principally at Kilnasoolagh church, one mile from Newmarket-on-Fergus as is shown by the records. The eldest sons, since and including, Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st. Bart, having been buried there.

The last member of the family buried there was Lucius 15th. Baron Inchiquin in 1929, the father of the present peer, and his wife née Ethel Jane Foster who died in 1939. Two brass plates commemorate the Honble. Desmond O'Brien, born in 1895, who was killed in action on 15 July 1915, when flying with his squadron over the coast of Belgium in an attack upon the German lines, an officer in the Royal Naval Air Service ; and, Colonel Honble. Murrough O'Brien, D.S.O., M.V.O., his elder half-brother, who died in 1934. There is a very fine white marble monument, with recumbent figure of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st. Bart, who died in 1717. He was buried in the church. It is executed and signed by William Kidwell, a well known stonemason of Dublin. In 1936, Lord and Lady Inchiquin gave a reception in London, at 2 Upper Berkeley Street, W.I. on St. Patrick's day to all O'Briens, who could come. This "O'Brien gathering" brought together some two hundred and fifty of the clan, and was a great occasion.

Very many of the family had an opportunity to meet, who knew of each other, and had even corresponded, but never met. The genealogical tables in this book alone, give some idea of the branches extant, and the descendants of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th. Bart, who are alive in this generation.

There were members of the Dutch branch, living in Holland, and of the Spanish branch, who came specially for the occasion.

The long parchment pedigree of the O'Briens, now thirty three feet long was shown. The "Thomond Diamonds", and "Brian Boromhe's ring" were also shown. They are referred to elsewhere in this book. The Canadian O'Briens, descended from a brother of Sir Edward O'Brien 2nd. Bart, who in 1830 went as a pioneer to Shanty Bay, were unable to be present, but had visited this country the previous year, and wrote expressing regret at their absence from the gathering. Some accounts appeared in the newspapers of it, The Irish Times mentioned the following who were present among the guests :-

"Donna Lilah Assanti, The Hon. Mrs Blood, The Hon. Mrs. de Bathe, The Hon. Mrs R. Coke, Sir Charles Gwynn, Lady "Hervey Bathurst, The Hon. Mrs Lowry Corry, Donna Degna Marconi, Sir Timothy and Lady O'Brien, Viscount and Viscountess "Suirdale, Sir Murrough Wilson and Mr. Herman O'Brien, and "Count and Countess O'Brien".

A word should here be said of St. Columba, famous Irish public school, founded in 1840-2 ; the Dromoland O'Briens and Blatherwycke O'Briens, had a share in founding it, and at one time soon after, provided quite a number of O'Briens as pupils of the school. There were, at one time, no less than four first cousins, bearing the name together at the college ; The 14th. Baron Inchiquin, then the Hon. Edward Donough O'Brien, son of Lucius 13th. Baron; Mr. Edward William O'Brien, and his brother The Very Revd. Lucius Dean of Limerick, both sons of William Smith O'Brien ; Edward, the son of the Hon. Edward O'Brien, William Smith's younger brother ; Robert Vere O'Brien, son of the Hon. Robert O'Brien a brother of Hon. Edward O'Brien and of the 13th. Baron ; were all at the school.

The Hon. Henry O'Brien, the youngest brother had a son who took a scholarship at Winchester College, or might otherwise have also, gone to St. Columba for his education.

Among the founders were Lord Adare, afterwards 3rd. Earl of Dunraven (1812-1871), William Monsell, afterwards Lord Emly.

William Sewell, who subsequently founded Radley College, was its first head. He was a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, and a contemporary of Newman and Keble. He is described by Sir Aubrey de Vere in a letter to William Rowan Hamilton, who had just met him and been favorably impressed, as, "Mr. Sewell, one of the High Church Divines" — Sewell was a leader of the Oxford movement. This was his first visit to Ireland, and in 1840.

He had come to Ireland, at the invitation of the Founders of the college with a view to being its first headmaster, and was himself looking about to see who were the persons motivating and supporting the founding of the college. William Sewell had come over to Ireland to inspect, and to be inspected. In the letter mentioned, for instance, De Vere says :-

"I hope he impressed you as favourably as he did me, he "has that peculiar air of suavity and courtesy, which I think is peculiar to Oxford".

Sewell on his part was no less impressed with de Vere, and with the Irish Society of Limerick; of which, as he says,

"Sir Aubrey was the bright particular star".

In Sewell's Reminiscences, he gives an attractive picture of that Society and of De Vere himself.

"When I went to Ireland with Lord Adare, there were several families, which made up in Limerick a charming set : Lord Inchiquin at Dromoland (then Sir Lucius O'Brien), and all the O'Briens, Lord Dunraven, the Monsells, the de Veres. They were all more or less connected by intermarriages, and formed a society full of life, amiability, talent and real goodness. It must have been a specimen of the very best Irish Society".

Sewell continues and describes Sir Aubrey de Vere :

"I met him at Tervoe — young gentlemanly, well, but slightly formed, intelligent face, good eyes, hair long, and rather curling, but cultivated (there seems to be an ancient tradition even from the days of Apollo that hair cutting and poetry do not go well together, as if a certain Samsonian strength for rhyming resided in long hair); in short a very prepossessing person and no affectation. I was naturally a person of some curiosity to him, as the great friend of his two great friends Lord Adare and William Monsell".

Not every one he met on his visit, however, pleased him. In another part of his Reminiscences he writes :-

"I found myself one day at dinner at Lord Dunraven's, "seated next a little man with keen eyes and well-preserved wig, but "not without symptoms of decay. I think Lord Adare intentionally "did not introduce us. I was silent as usual, and so was he. After "dinner the conversation turned on mesmerism, and I repeated the "anecdote of the poor girl and the bank note. My neighbour quickened his attention, his eyes brightened, and he seemed to be saying "within himself 'That is worth remembering, and keeping for my "next dining out !' Mr. Bartley was to read us a play of Shakespeare "in the evening, I asked him if he was going to stay for it. 'O' he "said, 'I am sick of Shakespeare !'; — it was Moore the poet" !

The Founders of the college met in Dublin at Easter 1841, a prospectus was drafted, which was laid before the Primate, and in May it was redrafted at Exeter College at Oxford.

It was agreed to put the management into the hands of eight people, one of whom was Augustus O'Brien of Stone Hall, County Clare, and Blatherwycke Park, in Northampton.

The Earl of Dunraven ; Viscount Adare ; William Monsell ; Augustus O'Brien ; Dean of Lismore ; Dean of Armagh ; The Revd. William Sewell and the Revd. J.M. Todd.

A campaign for funds was launched, and two rather comic episodes occurred, while it was on. The Dowager Queen Adelaide, widow of King William IV, said she would give £ 50. The management was non-plussed, not because the gift was not welcome, but because it seemed better that its amount should be suppressed seeing that the Archbishop had promised £ 500. How could it be done ?

It was thought that if it became known that the ex-Queen had given only £ 50, the running would be spoilt, and the generous promise by the Archbishop would no longer set the pace for large contributions to the fund by the general public. It never transpired how long the secret was kept — if at all.

The other was, when William Smith O'Brien was asked to subscribe. There were two of the managing committee present at the moment. William Smith replied, "but if I give you £ 10, will you accept it ?". One said "Yes !" but the other, less tactfully, and quickly added, "Timeo Danaos nec dona ferentes", with an emphasis on the "Danaos", implying the followers of Daniel O'Connell.

For a reader, who does not know latin, the quotation is from Vergil's Aeneid, and was uttered by the High Priest of Troy upon news reaching him, that the Trojan Horse had arrived with gifts, which he suspected had a dangerous background to it.

"I" fear the Greeks (followers of Daniel O'Connell) even  
"when they bring gifts."

It is said, that William Smith did not relish the remark, but he responded manfully, if not with his £ 10, by sending two sons to the college.

It was mentioned, that the Honorable Henry O'Brien's son Edward, took a scholarship at Winchester. It is not so well known by the O'Briens, that they are kin of William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester, who founded the college and New College at Oxford. He died in 1404. It was founded in 1393, and held its quinqucentenary in 1893. Against Edward O'Brien's name, in the list of scholars, appears the letters, "C.F.". or, "Founder's kin".

Founder's kin obtained certain concessions during their time there. In the Irish genealogical office, Dublin, is a pedigree, a copy of which, issued by the office, is in the author's possession, and gives the descent. It passed through the female line six times. On the last occasion through one of the Frenchs of Monivea. Anne French, marrying Sir Lucius O'Brien, 3rd. Bart of Dromoland ; the pedigree stops at Edward O'Brien, which give the impression, that it was got out to prove Edward's kinship, to obtain the advantages accruing to the honor of election to the Roll of Scholars. The first few entries in the pedigree are of interest.

It starts with, one "Long", who had a son William of Wickham, and daughter Alice, who married John Archimore. They had a daughter Maud, whose husband is not mentioned, but she had a daughter, Agnes, who married John Beke of Micheldever, Co. Hants.

The pedigree then descends through sixteen generations, passing from John Beke, through the families of Bolney, Gage, 15th Earl of Kildare (Fitzgerald), Digby, and French, to Edward O'Brien.

William of Wickham, being a priest of course, did not marry. William Smith O'Brien's grandson, Conor O'Brien, a half brother of the late Mr. Dermot O'Brien, P.R.H.A. who was born in 1802, took a scholarship at Winchester, being of a later generation than "Edward". The author spent more than five years at Winchester,

before going to Oxford ; he was slightly senior in point of age to Conor ; his first term there coincided with the celebrations of the 500th. anniversary of the foundation of the college, where he was present at the 'Ad Portas' in the college quadrangle, when the senior college prefect welcomed in a latin speech the late King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales. The previous day, he with many other of the first term's youngsters were commissioned to search the rivulets flowing in the school meadow into the Itchen for crayfish to adorn the festive board for the gala luncheon to be given on the morrow at the castle in the town. The catch was quite successful.

It is matter for regret, that we have in our possession so little information of the forbears of the distinguished "O'Brien", who of recent years was advanced to the peerage, as Baron Shannon of the City of Cork, on becoming Lord High Chancellor of Ireland. Ignatius John O'Brien, of Ardtona, Dundrum, County Dublin was created a Baronet on 15 January 1916, and a peer, becoming a member of the Privy Council in Ireland.

The letters patent creating him a peer bear date, the 1 July 1918. He was the son of Mark Joseph O'Brien of the City of Cork and his grandfather was, Jeremiah O'Brien of Bandon, in the County of Cork. It is interesting to note who were :-

*The largest owners of land in County Clare in 1876 ;*

By the return of owners of land in Ireland of one acre upwards. Printed in 1876, by H.M. Stationary Office, Dublin, and presented to both Houses of Parliament :-

	acres	valuation £
Lord Inchiquin	20,313	£ 11,681
Lord Leconfield	37,292	„ £ 15,699
H.V. Macnamara		
of Ennistymon House	15,248	„ £ 6,932
Marquess of Coningham		
of Slane, Co. Meath	27,613	„ £ 10,808
de Stafford M. O'Brien		
of Stonehall, Co. Clare	11,105	„ £ 5,706
W.H.W. Fitzgerald		
Cliffe Hall, Darlington	9,164	„ £ 3,473
Col. Wm. E.A. MacDonnell	6,610	„ £ 2,947
Hon. Chas. Wm. White,		
Cahircon House,		
Killadysert, Co. Clare	18,266	„ £ 6,610

Ed. P. Westby	acres		
Roebuck Castle, Dundrum	25,779	valuation	£ 7,691
Col. Crofton Moore			
Vandeleur, Kilrush House	19,790	„	£ 11,216
Other members of			
Vandeleur family	4,680	„	£ 1,670

*In County Galway :-*

Robert French of			
Monivea Castle Owned :-	10,121	„	£ 3,703

*Castles in County Clare :-*

According to a 19th. century M.S. in Trinity College, Dublin, there were at the time of Queen Elizabeth, in 1584, 165 castles in County Clare. Mr. Healy Hutton in his survey of 1802, names 119, out of which, he says, the Macnamaras built 57. The castles in Clare, from the Ordinance Survey of 1862, are given at 149 ; and there was a subsequent, and more accurate survey, that gave still more.

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*Note*—A very full genealogical table of Sir Edward O'Briens (4th Bart-who died in 1837) descendants, 20 ms.×10 ins. on photostat, including 450 names and 500 dates, is obtainable on application to the publishers, see p. 9.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### THE PICTURES AND WORKS OF ART AT DROMOLAND CASTLE.

A settlement was entered into in May 1898 making some one hundred and twenty pictures at the Castle heirlooms in the family. Since then a number have either been given or bequeathed to the family, notably some pictures which were of family interest and had been in the London house of Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin.

On his wife's death (née Louisa Finucane) in 1904 her eldest son owned them till he died in 1943. They have since passed to Lord Inchiquin, and to Dromoland, after a gap of about ninety years. Others have been acquired, such as an oil painting of the 1st Viscount Clare, another of William 2nd Marquis of Thomond, by Thomas Clement Thompson R.H.A. The artist was born in 1880 and died in 1857. Born in Belfast, Thompson painted the portrait in 1824. The Marquis died in 1846. Recent returns to the family have been some interesting oil paintings, probably done about 1760/70 of some of the ancient kings of Ireland, including Brian Boromhe. It is not known who painted them : Also, a large oblong colourful oil painting, depicting the surrender of Murrough O'Brien, the tanist and last King of Thomond of his kingdom to King Henry VIII at the Palace at Greenwich in 1543. King Henry with his officers of State, are seen accepting from Murrough, who was accompanied by his nephew, Donough, afterwards the 2nd Earl of Thomond, the Crown and Sceptre of Thomond. The scene is the terrace, and Murrough is seen robed in scarlet. The King is conferring upon him and his nephew, the titles of Earl of Thomond and Baron Inchiquin on Murrough, and the Barony of Ibrackan on Donough.

Another picture is a portrait of the famous "Moirá Ruhr", wife of Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle, who was credited with having saved the family estates from forfeiture by Cromwell by a ruse in the face of Ireton's Army. It is recalled that Conor, who had sallied out to meet the advancing soldiery, was slain at Lisrona a few miles away, and his body brought to the Castle. The event took place in 1651. On seeing the body she repudiated it, saying she was not married which was true at the time, her husband being dead only a few hours. In support of her statement she expressed her willingness to marry any officer that it might be Ireton's pleasure to produce for the purpose.

She eventually married one Cornet Cooper, whose name was submitted to her.

Another recently acquired portrait was of William 2nd Earl of Inchiquin, the son of Murrough O'Brien created first Earl of the name, who was known as "Tothaine", the "Burner". This William was Governor of the Harbour Town of Tangier, which it will be recalled came to the English Crown and Charles II, as part of the dowry of his Queen, Catharine of Braganza. He had lost an eye, when he and his father were attacked some years before by an Algerian Corsair in the Mediterranean. The picture is by Sir Godfrey Kneller. There is a second picture of the 2nd Earl at Dromoland, showing the loss of one eye. The first picture was presented to the present Lord Inchiquin, to be hung at the Castle, by fifty five members of the family, who accompanied the gift with a memorial signed by each of the contributors. It was on parchment bordered with green silk ribbon and tied in one corner with a green bow.

The pictures at Dromoland consist mainly of portraits of heads of the branches who have passed in succession of title down the principal lines of kinsmen, whose common ancestor was Turlogh Don, who died in 1528.

The earliest pictures begin with a pair of Donough O'Brien in the 28th year of his age 1577, and his wife Slaney O'Brien. This Donough was the son of Murrough O'Brien, the Tanist. They are on panel — 9 1/2 ins. by 7 1/2 ins. He was hanged for alleged treachery at the gates of Limerick in 1582 because of an alleged fault in his letter of protection. Subsequent to his death, his family obtained for him and for the benefit of his heirs a complete pardon. The lines of kinsman principally represented are the Earls of Thomond ; the Earls of Inchiquin, who were also Marquisses of Thomond ; the

Viscounts Clare ; and Dromoland O'Briens. Some were presented, bequeathed or acquired by the Dromoland branch of the family, since these lines died out in 1741, 1855 and 1774 respectively.

The Dromoland line is fully represented by portraits of the heads of the family up to date, with one or two early exceptions. Many of the Earls of Thomond, and the Earls of Inchiquin are pictured, including the three Marquisses of Thomond. The first in his robes, who died in 1808 painted in 1805, William 2nd Marquis, by Thomas Clement Thompson, R.H.A., and James 3rd Marquis and Admiral. The third Marquis left three fine pictures by Sir Joshua Reynolds to the British Admiralty at Portsmouth, where he had been Admiral in Command. He lived principally at Rostellan Castle, near Cork, the home of this branch of the family, but he had a house at Bath also.

The pictures which he bequeathed, were exhibited in his life time at the Bath Exhibition, of which an account appears earlier in this book. There is a picture of Slaney wife of Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh, who died in 1603, painted by Max Gheeraerts. Of historical interest, there are pictures of Lady Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, and her daughter, Queen Anne (87 x 57 ins.) a full length by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and presented to the family by herself. Another of Queen Henrietta Maria (1609-1669) Queen Anne's grandmother, by Vandyk (50 x 40 ins) is a truly lovely portrait, in a blue dress, the hand is beautifully painted with the extreme delicacy of the master, and is a feature of the picture. It is believed to have been, bequeathed or presented, to the family by Queen Anne, and to her niece Catharine Keightley, who had married Lucius O'Brien of Dromoland. Lucius O'Brien was the eldest son of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st Bart. of Dromoland, who was a privy Councillor to Queen Anne.

The picture belonged at one time to the Queen's uncle the Earl of Rochester. There are pictures of the Lord Chancellor 1st Earl of Clarendon, and of his four children :- Henry 2nd Earl of Clarendon, the Earl of Rochester, Lady Francis Hyde, who married Rt. Honorable Thomas Keightley, the Lord Treasurer of Ireland, and Lady Anne Hyde just mentioned. This marriage connection of the O'Briens with the Keightleys has been of special interest to the family, involving their marriage connection to James II (Duke of York). There is much correspondence, which is now being examined in the muniment room at Dromoland Castle, covering this period of his-

tory, and many letters of interest may be expected to come to light from the examination of the Dromoland manuscripts. The examination is being carried out by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

To mention three papers which the author came casually upon was a letter in the hand of Queen Anne to the Treasury Commissioners in Dublin, raising Thomas Keightley's salary to two thousand pounds, for having served her well as Lord Treasurer in Ireland. Another, was a deed of sale of Keightley's house in Dublin, the name of the street, and the purchaser and the price at which it was sold. Another, a letter from Lord Rochester to his niece, Catharine Keightley, Mrs. Lucius O'Brien, congratulating her on the birth of her son, christened Edward, who later became the 2nd Baronet, upon his grandfather Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart's. death in 1717. Through this connection came many portraits of the Keightley family as well. Below is given a sketch plan, showing the substance of what has been written here. It takes the form of a short genealogical table, with an indication in each case, if a picture of one of the persons whose names appears in it is pictured at Dromoland Castle.

Another group of pictures, which deserves attention includes 25 hunting and racings subjects. These were mainly introduced by Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Baronet, just mentioned. In one he is seen on horse back with his pack of hounds, a park and large house are in the background. He raced at Newmarket in England, and at Dromoland, where he kept a training ground. There are, also, two large canvases depicting groups of men and racehorses in the act of training, or running trials at Newmarket in England ; those are of special interest, and it is believed of considerable value. One is a fine picture of "Newmarket in 1730" (33" x 58") with the view of the racing crowd, and the coaches, and the men and women of fashion, all duly portrayed.

The following famous racehorses of the day had their portraits done for Sir Edward, including, Volunteer ; The Bloody-Shouldered Arabian, by Spencer 1734 ; Mother Brown ; Flying Childers, by Spencer 1725 ; Sterling ; Bay Bolton ; Polly Peacham ; Miss Guin ; Merry Quill ; The Godolphin Arabian, by Spencer ; and "Miss Don Racer with Sir Edward O'Brien".

Few sportsmen, who possess copies, and wish to possess the originals of these famous horses, know that they are at Dromoland Castle.

There is another fair-sized canvas of the Prince of Wales' Stud at Newmarket in 1730 ; with the likeness of the racer "Miss Don" in the picture. The racers, Childers, and Sterling were the Duke of Bolton's horses ; and Miss Don, Bay Bolton, Polly Peacham and Miss Guin belonged to Sir Edward O'Brien.

A china tea set presented to Catharine Keightley (Mrs. Lucius O'Brien), by her first cousin, Queen Anne, is at Dromoland. The cups are very small , and show that a *temporate* use was made of the new and fashionable beverage. One of the tea-pots has a silver spout

Five old canvases were recently returned to Dromoland, which had been there in the time of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart, who died in 1837, and no doubt had been in the family from a much earlier date. From the french rendering of the names and inscriptions on them, it is possible that they formed some part of the Estate of the last Viscount Clare (O'Brien), who died without issue in 1774 in Paris.

Here is a list of them :-

1.—Picture of, "Carthan Fionn Roy de Thomond, baptised by St. Patrick AD. 453." (3" x 3").

2.—Picture of, "Oiliole Olum, Roy de Cashel Thomond 167" (3" x 3").

3.—Picture of : "Brian O'Brien, 111, Roy de Cashel et Thomond Cathan Aongh". "Ad. 1368-1399" (2 1/2" x 3").

(He built the present Castle of Bunratty in 1397).

4.—Picture of : "Lorcan Lethmoy Thomond Rex 921." (grandfather of Brian Boroimhe, a quo, The O'Kennedys, and O'Hagans.)

5.—Picture of : "Muirgertagh II Hib. Rex. ob. 1119." (Mortogh More O'Brien, great grandson of Brian Boroimhe).

6.—Picture of : "Comte de Thomond, Vist. Clare, Prince Romain aetate XVI." (Charles O'Brien, the last and 7th Viscount Clare who died in 1774).

They are all painted in oils on canvas ; and probably done about 1760/70.

One of the largest canvases (160" x 130") which is set in the wall of the entrance hall is a painting by Van Wyck on canvas, a full length Equestrian picture, probably done about 1690, of Donough Cairbreach O'Brien, King of Limerick and Thomond, who has been noticed earlier here.

He is in full armour, mounted on a prancing horse, also armoured. An inscription painted on the canvas reads :- "Donough O'Brien

quondam Hibernorum Rex" (one time King of Ireland). The date given is AD. 1250, but no doubt is meant for AD. 1230, as the subject of the pictures died in AD. 1242. Donough Cairbreach O'Brien, did homage to King John upon his landing at Waterford in 1212, greatly to the anger of others of his family. They subsequently drove him from the Castle of Carrigounnell, situate on the Limerick side of the Shannon, some eight miles from Limerick, which with certain lands King John had granted him. The circumstances of his homage are recorded in the Charter, signed at the Tower of London in the year AD. 1222. It is in Latin. Here is a translation of part of it as reproduced from Lodge's peerage of 1789. Vol. 2 p. 16 :-

"Having done homage at Waterford in AD. 1212 to King John of England, Donough Cairbreach, Chief of The O'Briens, was "by the King confirmed in his title of King of Thomond ; and all "his brothers, who might claim the title and lands now confirmed "as his, were declared usurpers, enemies of the Crown of England".

John Donoghue's, "Historical Memoir of the O'Briens" — 1860 — refers to this subject : "From thence for more than three "hundred years, the Chiefs of the O'Briens were styled, Kings of "Thomond, until the last King surrendered to King Henry VIII in "1543, his, "Captaincy, Superiority and Country", and accepted the "Earldom of Thomond and Barony of Inchiquin, and was sworn "of the King's Privy Council".

Contemporary with these events in Ireland was the signing 3 years later of the Magna Charta, the "Great Charter", extracted from King John by the barons of England at Runnymede on June 15th. 1215. Various rights and privileges were guaranteed to his English subjects, and the supremacy of the law over the will of the monarch was established.

Donough Cairbreach O'Brien is said to have been the first of the family to have been styled "The O'Brien".

The picture of Donough Cairbreach O'Brien was probably brought from Lemeneagh Castle to Dromoland, when the family removed there about 1685, as was also the ancient Spanish Armada table, now in the hall of the Castle.

Other pictures at Dromoland are of the Clarendon (Hyde) family ; The Lord Chancellor, 1st Earl of Clarendon, and four of his children. The Chancellor was born in 1609 and died in 1674, created Earl in 1661. He married Francis daughter of Sir Thomas Aylesbury Bart. The Lord Chancellor's portrait is 43" x 35" and

by John Reily. His sons ; Henry, 2nd Earl of Clarendon (48" x 37") who died in 1709, and married Lady Theodesia Capel, daughter of the first Lord Capel is by Sir Godfrey Kneller ; and Laurence, 1st Earl of Rochester (49" x 36") painted by the same artist. The latter was created a peer in 1662, and died in 1711 ; he married Henrietta Boyle, daughter of Richard Earl of Burlington. He was the Lord Chancellor's 2nd son. There is a portrait of Lady Theodesia Capel, (48" x 38") by Eckhard. There is a second portrait of the 1st Earl of Clarendon (43" x 35") after Vander Bank. The Chancellor's two daughters are represented, Lady Francis Hyde, who married the Rt. Hon. Thomas Keightley, Lord Treasurer in Ireland, whose daughter Catharine married Lucius O'Brien of Dromoland, the eldest son of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st Bart. Here is where the link comes, in the marriage connection of the Keightley's. And the portrait of the Chancellor's second daughter, Lady Anne Hyde (29" x 25") by Sir Peter Lely, whose marriage to the Duke of York, who later became James II, and was the father of Queens Mary and Anne, has been mentioned.

Catharine Keightley was, therefore, a first cousin of the two Queens ; and Lucius by his marriage became "first cousin" to them, "by marriage". A portrait of Thomas Keightley by Mary Beal is at Dromoland.

Lady Anne Hyde's portrait (29" x 25") is by Sir Peter Lely. She married the Duke of York in 1659, and died in 1671. Thomas Keightley was born in 1650, and died in 1719. His father was William Keightley, born in 1621, of whom there is a portrait by Greenhill 1648 ; (29" x 34").

There are portraits of William Keightley's two brothers, Thomas and John, by Vanderhelst and John Reily ; who were born in 1634 and 1635 ; and of William's wife, Anne Williams, by Greenhill 1648, whom he married in 1648. There are, also, pictures of Thomas Keightley, the Lord Treasurer's grandfather, born in 1579 and who died in 1662, by Van Somer 1616, and of his wife, Rose Evelyn, by Van Somer, 1616 ; she was born in 1596, and died in 1682 ; also, a picture of Thomas' sister, Kendrick by Cornelius Janssons, 1620.

There is a portrait of the Lord Treasurer's brother, Francis, born in 1652, 29" x 25", wearing a turban, by Richardson.

Rose Evelyn, was a niece of John Evelyn, the diarist, who was born in 1620, and died in 1706 ; and was a daughter of Thomas Evelyn, of Long Ditton, in Surrey.



*Mary Mac Mahon, known as Moira Ruhr, famous châtelaine of Lemeneagh Castle County Clare, and wife of Conor O'Brien, great grandson of Donough O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle and Dromoland. She faced general Ireton's army commander at the gates of the Castle in 1651 when he brought back the body of her husband, killed fighting against the forces in Clare. By a ruse she saved the estate from forfeiture by Cromwell by offering to marry any officer in his army who might be chosen, as proof that the body was not that of her husband and that she was a widow.*



*Slanzy O'Brien wife of Conor O'Brien son of Donough, 3rd son of Murrough 1st.  
Earl of Thomond (The tanist). Daughter of Sir Turlough O'Brien.*



The Surrender of Murrugh O'Brien 57th king of Thomond to King Henry VIII at Greenwich on the Thames in July 1543. His nephew Donough O'Brien is seen in the picture. Murrugh is created Earl of Thomond for life and Baron Inchiquin heirs male. Donough received the Barony of Ibrickan, with remainder for life to the Earldom of Thomond on his uncle's death. Edward VI confirmed him in his title of 2nd Earl of Thomond and



*Lucia 2nd daughter of Sir George Hamilton wife of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st  
Bart. of Dromoland, married 1674.*

The right Hon. Thomas Keightley had seven sons, all of whom died between 1678 and 1688, his daughter, who married Lucius O'Brien, was the only survivor of his children. Below is a further list of pictures at Dromoland Castle :-

The Right Hon. Charles Porter ; Lord Chancellor of Ireland, in his robes (29" x 23").

The Duchess of Mazarin ; niece of Cardinal Mazarin by Casgar. (28" x 23").

Dean William Digby ; Dean of Clonfert (28" x 28"). Painted by Samuel. He is mentioned as one of the trustees in the agreement containing the marriage articles of Sir Lucius Henry O'Brien, 3rd Bart. of Dromoland, and dated 24 May 1768, on the occasion of his marriage to Anne French, daughter of Robert French of Monivea, County Galway. Sir Lucius was born in 1739, and died in 1795.

Earls of Thomond :-

Donough 4th Earl of Thomond ; who was Lord President of Munster.

He was buried in St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick, where is a fine monument to his memory. He died in 1624. He was known as the "Great Earl".

Henry 5th Earl of Thomond ; likewise buried in St. Mary's Cathedral, was the eldest son of the 4th Earl. He died without male issue in 1639.

Barnabas 6th Earl of Thomond ; second son of the 4th Earl, and brother to Henry 5th Earl. He died in 1657, and was buried at the Church of St. Andrew at Great Billing, his Northamptonshire seat. There are two portraits of him, one by Cornelius Janssens, and dated 1654. The other by Vandyk.

Henry 7th Earl of Thomond ; born in 1618, died in 1691, the son of Barnabas 6th Earl ; was buried at the Church of St. Andrews at Great Billing.

Henry 8th, and last Earl of Thomond ; grandson of Henry 7th Earl. Born in 1688, and died in Dublin in 1741, without male issue, and buried in St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick. He married Lady Elizabeth Seymour, daughter of the Duke of Somerset.

Viscounts Clare :-

1.—Sir Daniel O'Brien, created Viscount Clare by Charles II. in 1662. The founder of the Viscounts Clare branch of the O'Briens, who resided in France. He was the younger brother of Donough, 4th Earl of Thomond. He died in 1663.

2.—Charles 7th Viscount died in Paris in 1774 without issue, when the title became extinct.

The Earls of Inchiquin, Marquises of Thomond :-

Murrough 1st Earl of Inchiquin ; raised by Charles II from the rank of Baron Inchiquin in 1654. A long account of this distinguished general is given in another chapter. There are three portraits of him at Dromoland ; one as a boy of ten years of age, by Dobson, wearing a yellow suit with white lace collar in the manner of the period, circa 1624. He was born in 1614. He married Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir William St. Ledger Kt. P.C., who was Lord President of Munster in 1627. She died in 1685. Murrough died in 1674.

William O'Brien, 2nd Earl of Inchiquin; by Sir Godfrey Kneller; painted when Lord O'Bryen.

Another, his eye patched, having lost an eye in an assault on an Algerian Corsair in the Mediterranean. Painted by Mary Beal.

William O'Brien, 3th Earl of Inehiquin ; P.C. born in 1666 and died at Rostellan Castle, Co. Cork, in 1719. He was buried in Cloyne Cathedral Church, a few miles from Rostellan. Painted by Jervais.

Colonel James O'Brien,; 2nd son of the 2nd Earl of Inchiquin. He went with his father to Jamaica, when the latter became Governor. He was sent in command of two ships, and seven hundred soldiers to the coast of Hispaniola against the French. He became a member of the Council of Jamaica, and returned home with his mother, his father having died there. By Mary Beal. (30" x 25").

William O'Brien, 4th Earl of Inchiquin ; who was an original member of the Knights of the Bath, and lord of the bedchamber to Frederick Prince of Wales. He died in 1777. His nephew Murrough succeeded him, who was created Marquis of Thomond in 1800, and was one of the original fifteen Companions of the Order of St. Patrick in 1783. He was grand master of the Freemasons of England. There are three portraits of him one of which is by Hogarth.

The Hon. James O'Brien : M.P. for Youghal, brother of the 4th Earl of Inchiquin ; he married Mary Jephson, daughter of the Dean of Kilmore, who died in 1760 ; he died in 1771. He was grand-master of the Freemasons of Munster.

The Hon Mrs. James O'Brien (Mary Jephson) ; wife of Hon-James O'Brien above.

Dromoland O'Briens :-

Sir Donough O'Brien Kt., grandfather of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart. (29" x 24").

Mary MacMahon (Moirá Ruhr, or, Red Mary); wife of Colonel Conor O'Brien of Lemeneagh Castle, Co. Clare, and mother of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart. (2 portraits).

Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart. of Dromoland; born in 1642, created a baronet in 1686. P.C. to Queen Anne, and died in 1717. By Mary Beal.

Lucia Lady O'Brien 1st. wife of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st. Bart; 2nd daughter of Sir George Hamilton.

Elizabeth, Lady O'Brien, 2nd wife of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart. (née Elizabeth Dean), and mother of Henry O'Brien of Stonehall, Co. Clare. (29" x 22").

Henry O'Brien, of Stonehall, and Blatherwycke in Co. Northampton, 2nd son of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart.

Lady Carbery, wife of the 1st Baron Carbery. (26" x 18") 3/4 seated figure, her head resting on her hand, her grey hair hanging down over her right shoulder, (30" x 22"). She was a sister of Susannah Stafford, who married in 1699, Henry O'Brien of Stonehall in Co. Clare, second son of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart. of Dromoland. She and her sister were co-heiress of their father, William Stafford of Blatherwycke, Co. Northampton. This Henry was the progenitor of the Stonehall and Blatherwyck O'Briens. He died in 1723. By Simon Verelest.

Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Bart. and grandson of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st Bart. There are three portraits of him, in one he is on horse back with his hounds and the whips in the picture. He was the son of Lucius O'Brien, who married Catharine Keightley. He was born in 1705, and died in 1765. Another portrait of him is by Robert Hunter, an Ulster portrait painter of some repute, who flourished from 1752 to 1803. And the third with a favorite hound. He is holding a whip.

Lady O'Brien; wife of Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Bart; painted by Robert Hunter (ff. 1752-1803). Her blue velvet saddle cloth is preserved at Dromoland.

Sir Lucius Henry O'Brien; 3rd Bart; born in 1731, died in 1794, son of Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Bart. by Harnet, another of him, as a student holding a book, with College background (41" x 35"). He was a scholar of Trinity College, Dublin.

Anne, Lady O'Brien, wife of Sir Lucius Henry O'Brien, 3rd Bart; née Anne French, daughter of Robert French of Monivea, Co. Galway. Her hair worn tight and powdered, half-length, head

and figure turning to left, a pastel ; she is wearing a cap, or turban on the left side of her head, painted by Lady Middleton (21" x 17").

There is another portrait in oils (22" x 18").

Captain Edward O'Brien ; 3rd son of Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Bart. born 1737. He married in 1737, Charlotte daughter of Thomas Hickman. Painted by Francis Wheatley, R.A., 1747-1801.

Henrietta O'Brien ; daughter of Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd Bart, by Stephen Slaughter, who was practising in Ireland from 1730 to 1742. Painted in 1741. He died in 1765 in Kensington. She died unmarried. She is wearing a light blue silk dress.

Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart., born in 1773, died in 1837. By Harnet. He built the present Castle of Dromoland.

Sir Lucius O'Brien ; 5th Bart., and 13th Baron Inchiquin by succession in 1855 to his kinsman, the Marquis of Thomond. Born in 1800, he died in 1872. By Catterson Smith, P.R.H.A.

The Hon. Mrs. Charles Harris ; she was Catharine, daughter of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart., she married in 1837, the Revd Honourable Charles Harris, Bishop of Gibraltar, the youngest son of 2nd Earl of Malmesbury. She died in 1865.

The Honourable and Revd. Charles Harris ; who married Catharine O'Brien, daughter of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart. He died in 1874. This and the portrait of his wife, are in ivory in relief, in glazed frames.

Edward Donough O'Brien, 14th Baron Inchiquin, by Frederick Sargent ; born in 1839 and died in 1900. He married twice. Another portrait, postumous, is by W. Urwick.

Baroness Inchiquin (née Hon. Ellen Harriet White) daughter of the 2nd Baron Annaly of Luttrellstown, County Dublin, 2nd wife of the 14th Baron Inchiquin. She died in 1913. Painted by Frederick Sargent.

Lucius, 15th Baron Inchiquin, born 1865, died 1929. Painted by Walter Oules 1899 (56" x 41").

Another by Herbert Draper R.A. (26 " x 21")

Baroness Inchiquin (née Ethel Jane Johnston Foster, of Moor Park, Shropshire). She died in 1939, wife of the 15th Baron Inchiquin. By Herbert Draper R.A. signed, "Herbert Draper 1899-1900".

Donough Edward Foster, 16th Baron Inchiquin, born 1897. There are two pictures, one as a boy of three year, by Herbert Draper, R.A. 1900 (54" x 34"); and another by Maurice Codner 1946.

There are other pictures :-

Lady Theodosia Bligh (née Hyde), Countess of Darnley and Baroness Clifton in her own right ; daughter of the 3rd Earl of Clarendon. She was born in 1695, and died in 1722. She married in 1718 John Bligh, M.P., à quo, the Earls of Darnley. (49" x 39"). Painted by Sir Peter Lely.

The Countess of Arran (Elizabeth) ; wife of Charles Earl of Arran.

He was by right 3rd Duke of Ormonde. By Van Loo. Count de Mirabelle, Spanish Ambassador at the Court of James I.

Painted by Vandyke.

Catharine Howard, Countess of Newborough ; she was the daughter of the 2nd Earl of Suffolk.

Mrs. Scrogg. It is not known, who she was.

Lewis Farley Johnston — as a boy aged 5 years. He was born in 1788 and died in 1852. He became Judge of the Isle of Trinidad. Painted by Raeburn. He is wearing a white lace collar and short red coat. A relation or kinsman of Mr. Johnston Foster, of Moor Park, Shropshire, father of Ethel Jane Johnston Foster Baroness Inchiquin, the wife of the 15th Baron Inchiquin.

Four Bog Oak tablets (38" x 23") ; depicting incidents in the life of Brian Boroimhe, who was killed at the battle of Clontarf in AD. 1014. They were probably painted in the 16th Century.

1.—The King lying wounded in his tent near the battle field.

2.—The Bishop of Inis Cathay (Scattery Island in the Shannon) administering to the dying monarch the last sacraments.

3.—The funeral procession to the Abbey of Swords, his coffin being borne high upon the shoulders of the elders of the Church.

4.—A fourth tablet recounting, how,

“a young woman of great beauty, and finely arrayed,  
“wearing costly jewels, travelled alone from one end  
“of Ireland to the other. She was unmolested and no  
“attempt was made upon her honour, nor to divest her  
“of the clothes she wore.”

So peaceful and law-abiding were the Irish in the time of Brian Boroimhe.

The writing, which recounts the incidents of which we have given a quotation, is painted in gold lettering on bog oak. The paintings are in oil.

Ancient bronze statue ; measuring 33 ins. high, 8 ins. wide, and 3 ins. deep, is believed to be of Brian Boroimhe. It rests on an old wooden stand, on which is painted the following inscription :-

“The most renowned Boroimhe governed ye isle  
 “in Peace, and through his reign the Irish were  
 “a brave and wealthy people, and wars and discords ceased.”

It was bequeathed to Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin by his kinsman James 3rd Marquis of Thomond in 1855. It is reputed to have come from the tomb of Brian Boroimhe at Armagh. It is said, that the orb and sceptre on the figure prove it to be not earlier than the 12th Century, as these emblems were introduced from the Turkish Empire about that time. The animals on which the figure stands are supposed to represent wolf hounds.

Spanish Armada table (96" x 35" x 35 1/2" high); See Chapter XVII.

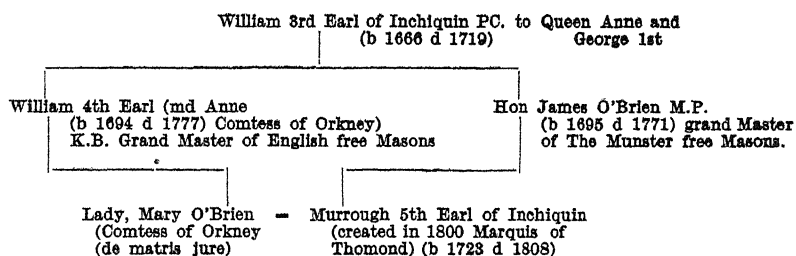
Mention has been made of a few miniatures at Dromoland :-

These include a pair of Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin and his first wife, Mary Fitzgerald, painted by Sir Frederick Burton. Burton was born at Corofin in the County of Clare, on 3rd April 1816, a handsome man, as may be gathered from an illustration in Mr. Strickland's two Volume Book :- "A Dictionary of Irish Artists". He was the third son of Samuel Frederick Burton ; he married Hannah Mallet, and died in 1900. Burton also painted miniatures, now at Dromoland, of Harriett O'Brien, a sister of the 13th Baron, who married in 1839 the Revd. Charles Monsell, She was born in 1812, and died in 1883. Painted by Sir Frederick Burton in 1845.

And, Miniatures of ; Major Kempland ; by James Warren Childe, dated 1827. Lt. Colonel Lucius O'Brien next brother of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart. He is wearing a blue, hussars uniform. Artist unknown. Painted on porcelain, a friend of Major Kempland.

Lady Susan O'Brien ; the eldest daughter of William 2nd Marquis of Thomond, who married Captain Hotham, painted by Adam Buck.

Mary Countess of Inchiquin, wife of the 5th Earl of Inchiquin whom she married in 1753, as his first wife. She was Mary Countess of Orkney in her own right, and they were first cousins, her father being the 4th Earl of Inchiquin, thus :-



Edward Donough, 14th Baron Inchiquin, with his sister, the Hon. Charlotte O'Brien, afterwards Mrs. George Ram, born 1840. Lord Inchiquin was born in 1839 ; was a year older than his sister.

The Hon. Juliana O'Brein, and her sister Honourable Mary O'Brien, born in 1837 and 1842 respectively. They were the eldest and youngest of Lord Inchiquin's sisters. Juliana afterwards became Mrs. Charles MacDonnell, and Mary, Mrs. Abel John Ram.

Col. Eoghan O'Brien of Mount Eagle, Killiney, Co. Dublin, has two small china statuettes of Wm. Smith O'Brien, M.P., and of his wife. They were acquired by him some years ago from an antique shop in Plymouth. They are rather comic. Wm. Smith is wearing a black frock coat and waistcoat and is seated, both his wrists are chained together, and at the foot of the figure, "S. O'Brien". His wife is standing with her hand on a chair, with rather a sad but resigned look ; at the base : "Mrs. O'Brien".

They are more quaint and reminiscent of his career, rather than works of Art.

There is a very good miniature of Wm. Smith O'Brien in the City Library at Limerick. The late Mr. Dermot O'Brien, P.R.H.A., his grandson, had a fine colored-drawing of him in the hall of his house in Dublin.

Of other members of the family, whose portraits are in the National Portrait Gallery in Dublin, are one of Murrough 1st. Marquis of Thomond by Sir Thomas Lawrence, wearing his order of St. Patrick, Ribbon and Star. He was an original companion of the order in 1783, and of Anne Cox (née O'Brien) his sister, and the wife of the Bishop of Ossory (Michael Cox), whose monument in Kilkenny Cathedral of St. Canice, has been described in another chapter.

Colonel Methuen of Stratton Lodge, Inverness, has a fine miniature by George Engleheart, signed by the artist, of Lord Edward O'Brien, younger brother of William and James, second and third

Marquises of Thomond. This Edward's son died young, or would have succeeded to the marquise, his brothers having no male heir.

There is a lovely miniature of Annie Maria O'Brien, Mrs. Spooner, who was the wife of Archdeacon Spooner, married in 1810 died in 1846, a daughter of Sir Lucius O'Brien, 3rd Bart. of Dromoland, and a sister of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart, now in the possession of Mrs. Inge, wife of Dean Inge, at their home "Brightwell Manor", near Wallingford. Mrs. Inge (Mary Spooner) is Annie Maria's great grand child.

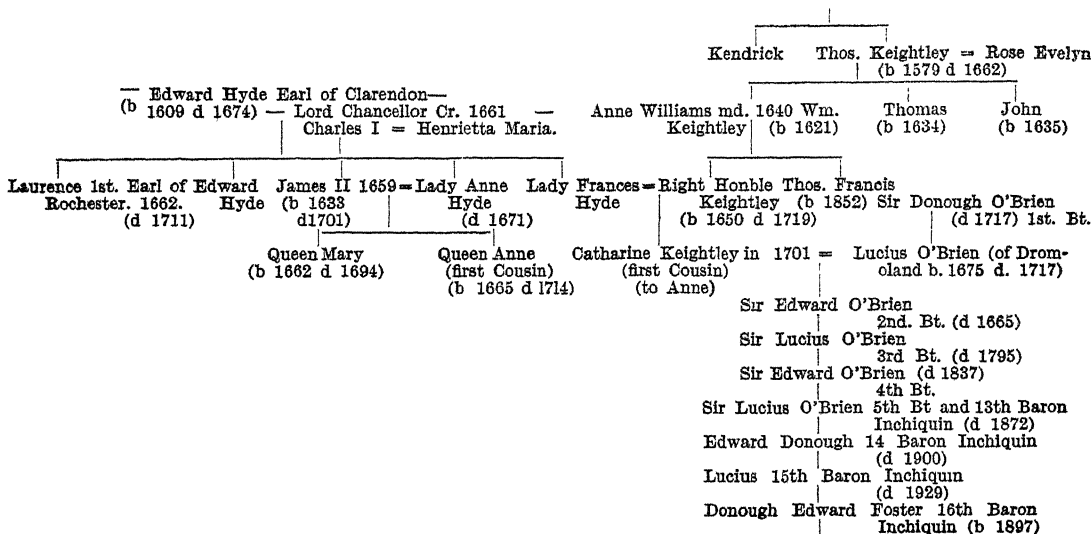
And Mr. Dudley Perceval of the Priory, Brightwell, whose mother was an O'Brien, Mary, daughter of Hon. Robert O'Brien, niece of Lucius Lord Inchiquin, 13th Baron, has a fine miniature of Sir Edward O'Brien, 4th Bart., Mrs. Spooner's brother. He has a picture by Sir Frederick Burton of Harriett O'Brien, sister of Lucius 13th Baron Inchiquin.

At the National Gallery in Dublin, are three engravings worth mentioning :-

1.—An engraving by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of the 1st Marquis of Thomond, painted by Sir Thos. Lawrence.

2.—An engraving of the 1st Marquis' daughter, Lady Mary O'Brien, from a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds.

#### A GENEALOGICAL TABLE, SHOWING THE MARRIAGE CONNECTION OF THE DROMOLAND O'BRIENS WITH THE KEIGHTLEYS, AND WITH THE STUARTS,



3.—An engraving by Bond of a picture by Sir Thomas. Lawrence of Mary Palmer, The Marquis' second wife, niece of Sir J. Reynolds.

Reference should be made to the text immediately preceding this Table for the names of the persons of whom there are portraits at Dromoland Castle. It will be found that there are eleven members of the Keightley family ; two Stuarts, Henrietta Maria and Queen Anne ; and five of the Hyde family, including the 1st Earl of Clarendon, represented at Dromoland. All the O'Briens, whose names appear here, are represented at Dromoland, making portraits of twenty seven in all whose names are in the Table, and are represented there.

On a settlement of forfeited lands after the revolution, Catharine Keightley's father received a grant from Queen Anne of 12,381 Acres of land for 99 years, as a portion for her, who had been dependent on Queen Mary. This was granted to Thomas Keightley in consideration of his losses by the war, and surrendering a pension of £ 400 a year, which had been granted to him and his wife in January 1687. Keightley was a Commissioner of the Revenue, and a member of the Privy Council of Ireland.

Lucius, the 15th Baron Inchiquin, father of the present peer, did pen-and-ink sketches in a sketch-book of nearly all the pictures at Dromoland. They are done with great minuteness each picture being easily recognizable. It forms an excellent catalogue. In the book he has entered a memorandum in his handwriting. It says that in 1903, pictures No. 1 to 129, were taken down and stood in the drawing room for inspection by Sir Walter Armstrong the famous picture expert, who stayed for 3 or 4 days at the Castle for the purpose of advising on the authorship of some, and to advise which required most to be cleaned or renovated. As a consequence, also some alterations were made upon the labels. Lord Inchiquin's memorandum goes on to say, that Sir Hugh Lane followed him 3 weeks later visiting Dromoland, and agreed with all the ascriptions assigned by Sir Walter.

This sketch book contains sketches of the famous Spanish-Armada table. The Bog-oak Tablets of Scenes in the life of Brian Boroimhe, and of the bronze figure of Brian, said to have come from Armagh Cathedral.

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A pedigree-catalogue on photostat of the "Keightley-Clarendon-O'Brien-Stuart" pictures here described, is obtainable on application to the publishers. It is 15 ins. by 9<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> ins. containing 70 persons names and 70 dates. See page 9.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### THE STONEHALL AND BLATHERWYCKE BRANCH OF THE DROMOLAND O'BRIENS.

This branch has been in existence about two hundred and fifty years. Its progenitor was Henry O'Brien, second son of Sir Donough O'Brien, 1st. Bart. of Dromoland, by his second wife, Elizabeth Dean, widow of Henry Grey of Dublin, whom he had married in 1677.

It will be remembered that his elder brother Lucius, married Catharine Keightley in 1701 ; Henry, who married Susannah Stafford, daughter and co-heiress with her sister Lady Carbery, of William Stafford of Blatherwycke Park, Northamptonshire, in 1699 had already become seated at Stonehall, Co. Clare before his marriage. His father made a generous settlement on him of other lands in the county besides Ballynacloghy Castle, the name of Stonehall in earlier times. The castle was said to have been built by D. McClancy, and was returned in 1570 as the property of D. McClanshy. The MacClanchys were the hereditary Brehons (or judges) in Thomond, and many documents still exist attested by members of that family.

Before 1641, Ballynacloghy passed into the hands of Nicholas Fanning. Thomas Cullen became the tenant. He was High Sheriff in 1661, and appointed one of the first Justices of the Peace in the County of Clare the following year.

In 1663 he was the tenant of Stonehall (Ballynacloghy), and evidently a man of position and authority. After the expiration of his lease he appears to have left Stonehall, for it was acquired by Sir Donough O'Brien from Sir Henry Ingoldsby.

Stonehall is still the County Clare seat of this branch, whose present representative is Egerton Augustus Stafford O'Brien, who

married Violet Tryon, she died in 1939. Robert Guy is the direct male descendant of Henry O'Brien who died in 1723, and he and the present Lord Inchiquin are seventh cousins, the latter being directly descended from Henry's brother Lucius, who married Catharine Keightley. Stonehall is on the Limerick-Ennis road about seven miles from Limerick, before Bunratty is reached, which is two miles further on.

Henry soon took up residence at his wife's place in Northamptonshire, Blatherwycke Park, where until of recent years the family was principally resident.

His issue were :-

- 1.—Stafford O'Brien (d.s.p.)
- 2.—Henry born 1708 who married Harriet Stamer, daughter of Wm. Stamer, of Carnelly, Co. Clare. He died in 1757. They had issue.

Susannah, who married Edward O'Brien of Ennistymon House, who had as issue Anne, who married the Rt. Hon. Mathias Finucane, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (for their descent see the chapter on The Ennistymon O'Briens here.)

- 3.—The Revd. William O'Brien, died unmarried.

4.—Donough, who married Mary Becket, the aunt of Sir John Becket, Bart. He died in 1777, leaving issue :-

- 1.—Henry O'Brien, who married Margaret Flenary, and died in 1811 having issue :- (see over)

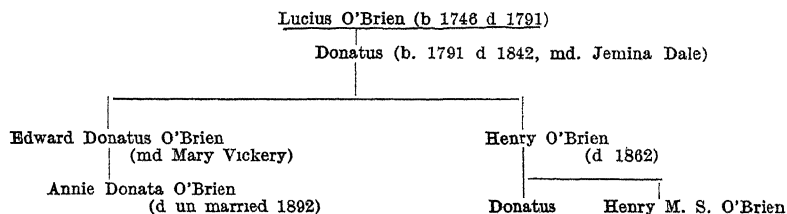
1. 1.—Donatus, of Tixover, married Matilda Bedingfield, daughter of Rev. Bacon Bedingfield, who was born in 1746.

2. 2.—Stafford, who had issue.

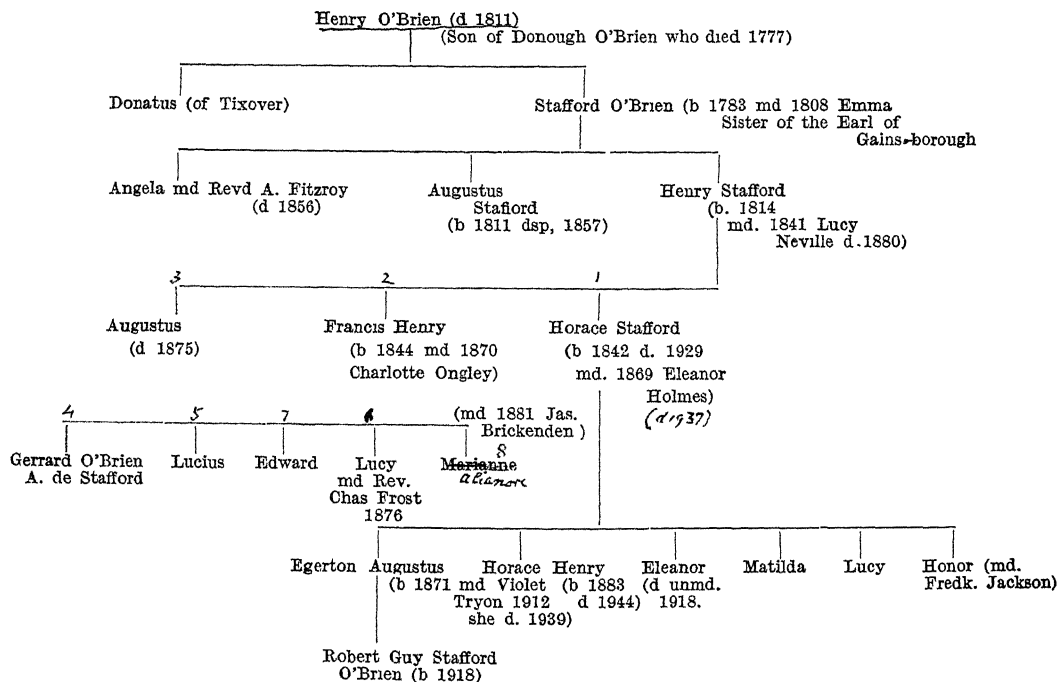
2.—Lucius O'Brien, born 1746, died 1791, married Ann Humphrey, who had issue. (see below)

- 3.—Stafford, who died unmarried in 1795.

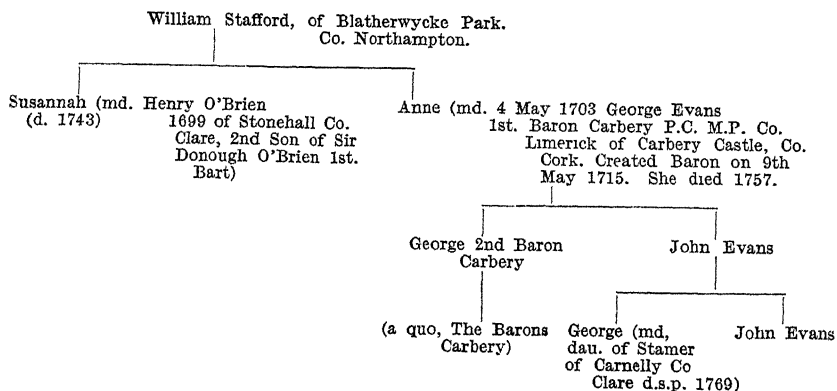
The issue and descent of Lucius is as under :-



The issue and descent of Henry O'Brien above, who died in 1811 continued the main line, as follows :-



The connection of Henry O'Brien with the Barons Carbery through his wife Susannah Stafford, is shown by the following table:-



There are pictures of Henry O'Brien, and of Lady Carbery, his sister-in-law, at Dromoland Castle, which have been noticed in the list of pictures there.

There is an early English stained glass window erected to the memory of Augustus Stafford O'Brien at St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick who is shown in the genealogical table here. He was born in 1811, and died in 1857. The window was erected in 1860.

He took a great interest in the cathedral, doing much towards renovating it. And we mentioned he was one of the founders of St. Columba College, outside Dublin, which was founded about 1841.

"Stonehall", has now become known as "Cratloe Woods", the name having been changed by the family of recent years.

A very full genealogical table on photostat of this branch of O'Briens measuring 10 ins.x8, containing 90 persons names, and 60 dates, is obtainable from the publishers on application. See page 9.

## CHAPTER XX.

### THE DUTCH BRANCH OF THE O'BRIENS.

Daniel O'Brien, from whom the O'Breens trace their descent, came to Holland with the forces of Queen Elizabeth. He was almost certainly the same Daniel O'Brien, whose marriage to Helena Barry from Cork is recorded in the archives of Emmerick, a town on the Dutch-German frontier, in the year 1618.

The entry of the register describes him, "Nobelis exul Anglus" native of Limerick. We give this text, which is in latin, and has been translated into English.

"25 May comparuit Nobelis exul Anglus, Catholicus Daniel  
"Oberin Lemmerick patria et Helena Barrie, Cork patria, cum dua-  
"bus, prolibus spe in facie Ecclesiae matrimonium consumandi, ante  
"conjunctionem increatis, ad forentes testimonia fidei catholicae  
"Loratio et a Patribus Societatis ad me ut conjungerentur destinati:  
"quos sine proclamationibus, praevio examine de cognatione duplici, et  
"juramento quod cum nullis aliis haberunt commercium sive fidei mati-  
"monialis, sive cognitionis, in facie ecclesiae conjunxi in praesentia  
"testium R.D. Arnoldi Ottonis, majistri Hermanni Bolswardiensis,  
"custodis ecclesiae nostrae fide dignorum. Item adstantibus And-  
"raea Zeller, Sterling patria, Andaea vom Beenen W. Wyck patria,  
"ambo scotis et stipendium hic sub scotis merentibus item Huberto  
"Capreet Glass. Anglo, Daniele ex uxore cognato".  
"Martini Church at Emmerik".

Translation :-

"On the 25th May there appeared before me the exiled Eng-  
"lish catholic nobleman Daniel Oberin, a native of Limerick and  
"Helen Barry, a native of Cork with two female offspring.....  
"desiring to be married according to the rights of the church, bring-  
"ing evidence of their catholic faith at Louvain, and sent to me by the  
"Fathers of the Society in order that they should be joined together ;

“whom without publication of banns, but after an enquiry into the  
“relationship on both sides... I joined together before the face of the  
“church in the presence as witnesses of the Revd. Doctor Arnold Otto,  
“of Master Herman Bolsweidiencis, guardian of our church by the  
“trust of the dignitaries. Also, present were Andrew Zeller, a native  
“of Sterling and Andrew von Beenen, a native of Wick, both Scotsmen  
“earning pay here under the Scots — also, Hubert Capreet Glass,  
“an Englishman, and a relation of Daniel through his wife”.

“Martini Church at Emmerick”.

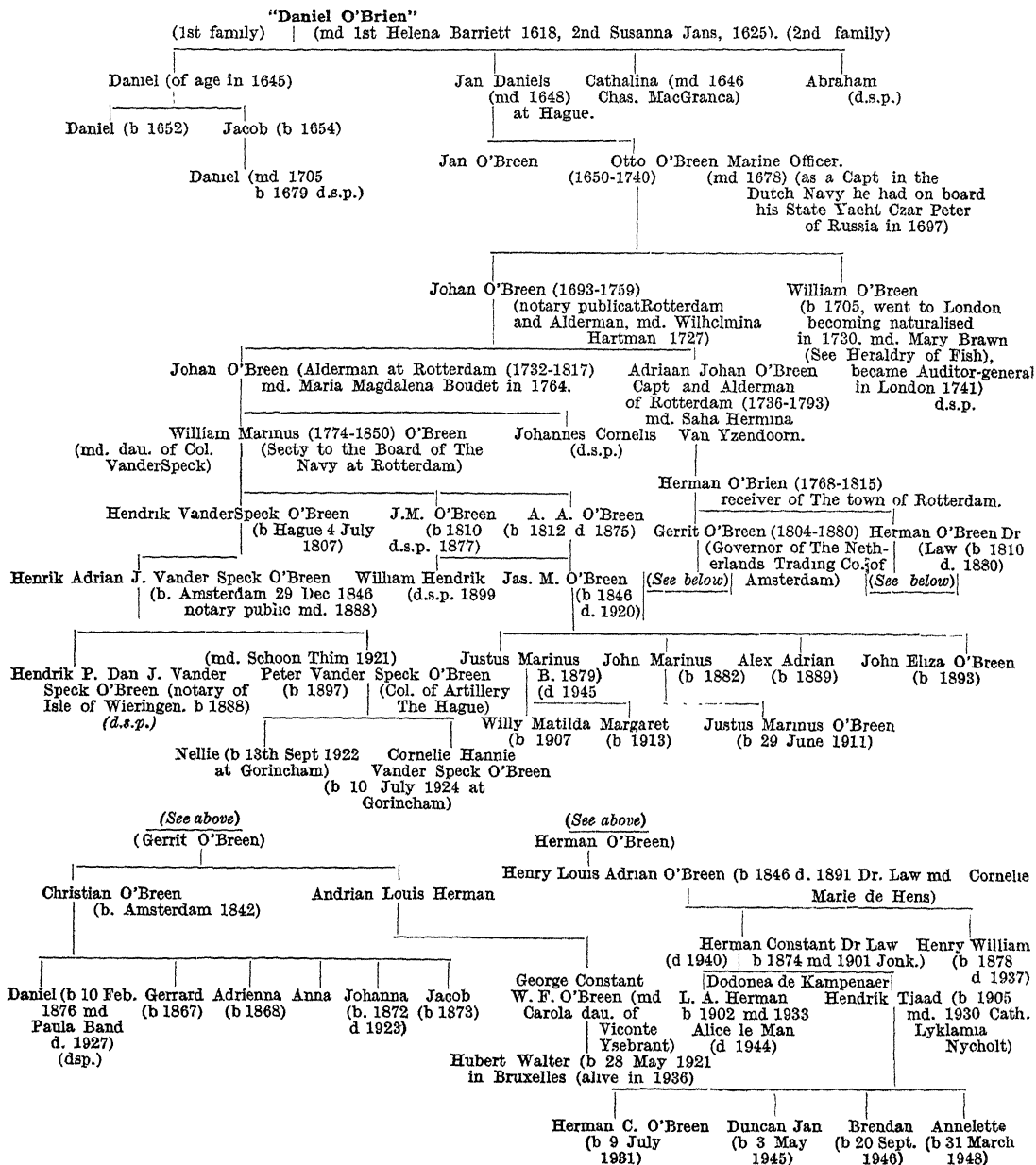
The Daniel of Emmerick was probably the son of Donald (Daniel), who was one of the eight brothers of Brian Duff of Carrigogunnell, in County Limerick, called “Pobble O’Brien”.

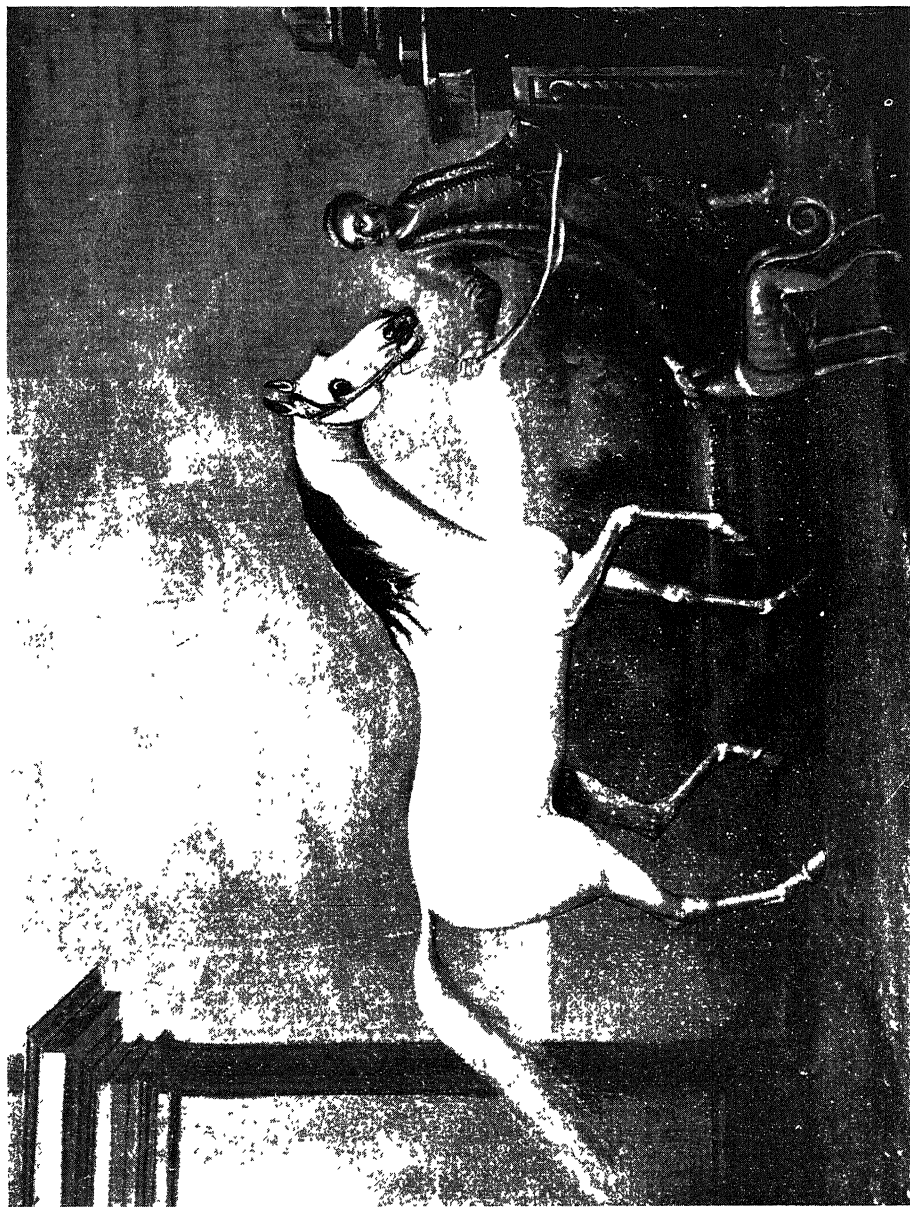
In AD. 1584, the head of Pobble Brien was Brian Duff, the son of Donough O’Brien. Brian Duff either did not join in Desmond’s rebellion, or else made peace in time. He surrendered all his territory, and got a grant from the crown. His pedigree is given in the Harleian M.S. A grant was made to him, who was chief of his nation upon surrendering all his castles, manors, and lordships in Pobble Brien, to hold to the heirs of his body with remainder to his brothers Teige, Mahon, Dermot, Donald and Conor O’Brien ; other brothers were Mortogh, Anwer and Donough. Sir John Norreys, President of Munster, was in Limerick in 1584 sequestrating estates, and Mr. James Grene Barry, M.R.S.A., Vice President of the Limerick Field Club, who in 1898 assisted members of the Dutch O’Breens in their Limerick investigations, expressed his opinion that the re-settlement of “Pobble Brien” was probably arranged by Norreys. Norreys joined the Queen’s forces in the Netherlands ; and Brian Duff sat in the Parliament in Dublin of 1585. It is probable, said Mr. Barry, that some of the younger sons of the O’Briens, and of other families, went with Norreys to Holland at this time.

And it is conjectured that Daniel the son of one of the brothers, Donald (or Daniel), was one of them. In 1931, Mr. Hendrick O’Brien, who is one of the family, and a practising lawyer in Holland, living now at Leiden, and who charges himself in his spare time, trying to find an answer to the quære mentioned, made researches in the Calendar State Papers of Ireland. Therein, he found that Donough O’Brien of Carrigogunnell (The Pobble O’Briens) went to Belgium in 1607 with the Earls of Tyrone and Tyreconnell, they first stayed in Bruxelles and then in Louvain (Leuven).

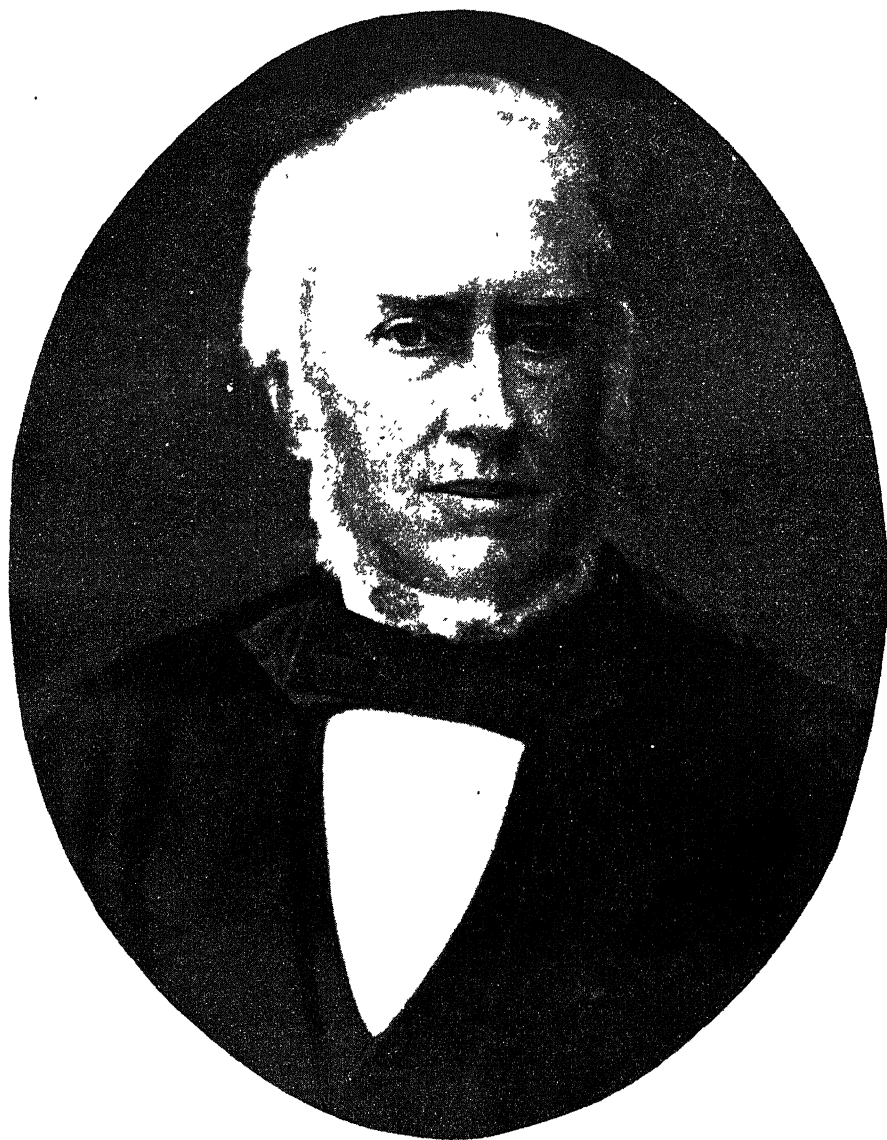
It is thought that this Donough was Brian Duff’s brother, and brother, also, of Donald, whose son was Daniel.

## PEDIGREE OF THE DUTCH O'BRIENS





*The Bloody-shouldered Arabian, by Spencer, 1734.*



*Herman O'Brien, Dr. Laws and Notary of Leiden, Holland, A.D. 1810 to 1880.*



*Jan O'Brien, AD 1650 to 1695, from an oil painting by Jan de Baen (1633-1702) he was a brother of Captain Otto O'Brien.*

Donough had been in rebellion against the English crown, and his goods were confiscated. It is probable that Donough's nephew Daniel was the Daniel of Emmerick and had come to Holland via Bruxelles and Louvain with his uncle in AD. 1607. If so, he descends from Conor O'Brien of Carrigogunnell Castle, County Limerick, who died in 1426 and was 13th. in descent from Brian Boroimhe and was the second son of Mahon Moinmoy, who died in AD. 1369. See the excerpt in chapter VII on the Ennistymon O'Briens,

The marriage register at Emmerick records that Daniel came there from Louvain, that is by the same route as his uncle Donough.

The Daniel, who figures first in the genealogical table of the Dutch O'Breens was thought to have come to Holland with the military forces of Queen Elizabeth, or thereabouts in point of time. If he come with his uncle Donough in 1607 King James had just become King in 1603. He married twice. By Helen Barry he had issue which died out in the third generation, and by his second wife Susanna Jans, whom he married in 1645, he had issue, whence are descended the present Dutch O'Breens.

Their son Jan Daniels, was the father of Otto O'Brien, who was born in 1650, and died in 1740. He was a naval officer, and on several occasions entertained on his ship, foreign royalties. While a captain of the Dutch Navy he had on board the State yacht, the Czar Pieter of Russia in 1697 ; and when the Czar, twenty years later, was in Rotterdam, in 1717, he called on Otto O'Brien, and presented him with a magnificently cut glass cup, and a golden medal commemorating the battle of Elbing (East Sea) coupled with his portrait. The family greatly prizes a picture painted by the Dutch artist, Rechussen, depicting the event. There is a large group of persons in Otto's house, and the Czar is seated in an armchair at the table, on which is the open box, which had contained the glass and medal. Captain Otto is receiving the gifts at the hands of the Czar, and stands bowed in acknowledgment of them.

The costumes of the period and the grey wigs, which were generally worn, is set off by some fine pieces of Dutch furniture and corner cabinets, and some model sailing boats, standing on a wardrobe. The servants are handing round wine in glasses to the guests. The picture is well conceived, and the figures well grouped, and commemorates an important event in the family.

Another royal visitor to Captain Otto O'Brien's yacht was the German Emperor Leopold, who honoured him with a medal, on which was his portrait. These marks of royal favour are carefully preserved by the family in Holland.

Otto had two sons, of whom the younger William, who was born in 1705, went to London, marrying Mary Brawn. He became auditor-general. His eldest son was Johan O'Brien, who was born in 1693, and died in 1759. He became a public notary, and an Alderman of Rotterdam, marrying Wilhelmina Hartman in 1727.

Of this marriage there were two sons, Johan and Adriaan. Each became progenitors of a line of descendants, running down five or six generations respectively, to the present day. These are the two kinsman lines of O'Brien, now living in Holland.

From Daniel down to the senior member of the first line, a period of three hundred and twenty years is spanned, and includes nine generations ; similarly, from the said Daniel, we find the present senior member of the second line is in the tenth generation. The descent through the male line for so long a period in two lines of kinsman, is a source of pride to the family.

Johan O'Brien was older than Adriaan, and was born in 1732 and died in 1817. He married Marie Magdalena Bondet in 1764.

First Johan O'Brien :-

His son was William Marinus, born 1774 died 1850. He was Secretary to the Board of Admiralty at Rotterdam, and married the daughter of Colonel Van der Speck. His eldest son was Hendrick Van der Speck O'Brien, from whom descends the senior branch of O'Brien, and before recounting his descendants, it is best to mention his two brothers :-

1.—J.M. O'Brien, born 1810, died 1877 unmarried.

2.—A.A. O'Brien (who had issue, great grand child Justus Marinus alive, born June 1911) was born in 1812.

Hendrick Van der Speck O'Brien was born at the Hague on 4 July 1807. He was chief engineer of the Royal Dutch Navy. He died at Hillegom, Province of North Holland on 28th September 1884. He married at Willemsoord on 7th September 1837 Heyltje Robyn, daughter of Surgeon Major Gerardus Robyn, knight of the Order of the Netherlands. He had a son :-

Hendrick Adraan Jacobus Van der Speck O'Brien, who was born at Amsterdam on 29 December 1846. He was Notary Public, nominated by Her Majesty the Queen of Holland ; and was an Alder-

man at Weiringen, an island in the Zuider-Zee (Southern Sea) and in 1936 of part of the Province of North Holland. He married at Weiringen on the 11th January 1888 Neeltje Takes de Jong, daughter of Pieter and Gerbrig Wagemaker. He died there on 21 July 1915. He had two sons, now both living, the eldest Hendrick Pieter Daniel J. Van der Speck O'Brien, is a Notary Public at the Island of Weiringen, and was born on 28 August 1888. He has no issue. His brother second senior of the line, Major Pieter Van der Speck O'Brien, born in 1897 is a major of artillery at the Hague. He has two daughters, Nellie born on 13 Sept. 1922 and Cornelie Hannie V. der Speck O'Brien, born 10th July 1924, both at Gorinchem, by his wife Diet Schoon Thim, whom he married in 1921.

We must return to A.A. O'Brien, No. 2 above — to pick up the descent again from Hendrick Van der Speck O'Brien, and in this line is found the next senior male descended from Daniel O'Brien.

A.A.O'Brien, was born in 1812 and died in 1875. He had two sons, the eldest William Hendrick died without issue in 1899.

His younger brother Justus Marinus O'Brien born in 1846 died in 1920, leaving four sons :-

1.—Justus Marinus, born in 1879 who had Willy Matilda and Margaret O'Brien born 1907 and 1913, but no son. He died in 1945.

2.—John Marinus, born in 1882, who has a son Justus Marinus O'Brien, born on 29 June 1911, who has a son of the same name born in 1939.

3.—Alexander Adraan, born in 1889.

4.—Johan Eliza O'Brien, born in 1893.

Justus Marinus Junior, born in 1939 is the youngest male of the line of Johan O'Brien whose younger brother was, Adraan Johan O'Brien . (below).

Secondly Adraan Johan O'Brien :-

Adraan Johan O'Brien, was captain and Alderman of Rotterdam. He was born in 1736 and died in 1793. He married Saha Hermina Van Yzendoorn, and had issue :-

Herman O'Brien, born 1768 died 1815 ; he was Receiver of the town of Rotterdam. He had two sons, Gerrit O'Brien and Herman O'Brien, each progenitors of minor descents, running into four and into five generations, which have for the most junior male representatives, Hubert Walter born in 1923 ; and Duncan Jan O'Brien born on the 3rd. of May 1945.

First Gerrit O'Brien :-

Gerritt O'Brien was born in 1804 and died in 1880. He became Governor of the Netherlands Trading Company of Amsterdam. He had :-

1.—Christian O'Brien, born 1842 at Rotterdam. He was chairman of the Assurance Company of Rotterdam (Maatschappij van Assurantie of Amsterdam). He died on the 15 July 1876, leaving a son Daniel, born 10 February 1876 married Paula Band, and died in 1927, and four sisters :-

1.—Adriana Elizabeth born Rotterdam 2 April 1868, married 1894 Carl Kraemer. He died in 1927. No issue.

2.—Anna Christina O'Brien, married H.J. Knottenbelt, leaving son and daughter.

3.—Adriana Johanna born at Rotterdam 1872 died 1923. She married there in 1897 Guillaume H.M. Delprat, secretary governor of the Netherlands at Amsterdam. Three married daughters are living of the marriage.

4.—Jacoba born Rotterdam 11 November 1873 married in 1931 Richard van Rees of Amsterdam.

2.—Adrian Louis Herman married A.S. Pabst, and founded the Daily Telegraph of Amsterdam. He had issue, a son George Constant W. F. O'Brien, who married Carola, daughter of Viconte Ysebrant, whose son is Hubert Walter, born 28 May 1921 in Bruxelles. (mentioned above).

Secondly Herman O'Brien, Dr. Law :-

Herman was born in 1810, and died 1880. He had a son Henry Louis Adraan Dr. Law, Born in 1846, died in 1891. He married Cornelia Marie de Hens. They had two sons,

1.—Herman Constant Dr. Laws.

2.—Dr. Henry William O'Brien born 1878 died 1937. Herman Constant Dr. Laws was born in 1874, and married on 18 April 1901 Jonkeron Dodonea de Kempenaar. He died in 1840, leaving two sons.

1.—L.A. Herman, born 1902 married 1933 Alice le Man, died in 1944.

2.—Hendrik Tjaade, born 1905, married in 1930, Catharine Lyk-lamia Nycholt. They have three sons ; Herman C. O'Brien, born 9th July 1931, and Duncan Jan born 3 May 1945, Brendon b. 3 May 1946, and Annalette b. 1948 on 31 March a daughter.

The members of the branch of O'Brien in Holland have kept in touch with the family in Ireland, and Lord Inchiquin's grand-

father was in correspondence over a hundred years ago with them in connection with matters affecting the common interests of the family. Three members of the Dutch O'Breens attended the O'Brien gathering, which Lord Inchiquin called in London on St. Patrick's day, 1936.

On that occasion were present Mr. Hendrick Pieter Van der Speck O'Brien of the senior line, and Mr. Herman Constant O'Brien, and his son Hendrik T. O'Brien, both of whom were doctors of law in Holland, of the junior line.

Besides the pedigree of the Dutch O'Briens appearing in this chapter, reference should be made to the pedigree in Chapter VII to see the kinship with the main O'Brien line.

A very full genealogical table on photostat, of the Dutch branch of the O'Briens here described, measuring 11 ins., by 8 ins., containing 70 names and 70 dates, is obtainable on application to the publishers. See page 9.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### “THE ANNALS OF IRELAND”, COMMONLY CALLED “THE FOUR MASTERS”.

There may be some readers, who do not know what were the “Annals of the Four Masters”, sometimes referred to in this book. For their benefit, it may be explained that, “Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland”, is the correct title of the work, which may be consulted for record of events and dates of Irish historical interest that occurred from the earliest times down to the 17th. Century when the recordings ceased.

The term “Four Masters” was one given to the four famous Irish scholars of the early 17th. Century, of whom the chief was Michael O’Clery, who obtained access to monasteries and seats of learning in Ireland, and translated and collated the ancient manuscripts that they found there.

They perpetuated their labours in their Annals, which were completed in 1636 at the Abbey of Donegal, which had been jointly founded in 1474 by Hugh Roc O’Donnell, chief of Tirconnell, and his wife Finola O’Brien. He was the son of Niall Garbh O’Donnell, and she was the daughter of Conor More na Sron O’Brien, fifty-third King of Thomond, who died in 1496. Mention has been made of his brother Teige an Chomard, his predecessor in the kingdom, who lived at his castle on Lake Inchiquin in County Clare, and was the father of “Turlogh Don”, as we have seen, the common ancestor of six lines of O’Brien kinsmen.

The Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland can be purchased at the second-hand book sellers, with the ancient Irish language on one side of the pages, and the English translation opposite, so no difficulty in reading the text is presented to any one unacquainted with the original language.

The substance recorded in these writings is the work of the scribes, who like the poets, doctors, lawyers, musicians and genealogists were recognized as part of the country's order ; each group having lands allotted to them to carry on their callings.

In particular the scribes had, among their duties, the recording of events of national importance, and the dates ; their submissions of fact were adjudicated upon by the Irish Monarch and his advisers once every three years. They were discussed and amended before becoming matters of state record. Fine and imprisonment, or whatever the Justice of the Parliament thought proper to inflict, acted as a deterrent to entries in the records or fallacious proposals put forward for entry by a scribe.

Pensions, endowments and estates could be forfeited for such offences, hence the historians of those ages were induced to be very exact in their relations, and to transmit nothing to after times but what had passed this solemn test and examination. Even the penalty of death could fall upon a scribe, who wilfully, or in gross carelessness, recorded events incorrectly for submission to these triennial conferences. They took place at the Palace of Tara, which was one of the Royal seats, erected by Taaltal Teachetmar. In this stately fabric, says Dr. Jeoffrey Keating in his, “General History of Ireland”, the general meetings of the states of the Kingdom were held, which convention was called, “The Royal Assembly of Tara”.

Dermod O'Connor D.D. brought out a book in 1726, which was an English translation of Dr. Jeoffrey Keating's, “General History of Ireland”. It was dedicated to William 4th Earl of Inchiquin, an account of whom appears in Chapter VIII of this book. It is a large volume, and rarely obtainable. A full list of the original subscribers is included in it, amongst whom were the Earl of Inchiquin, and Sir Edward O'Brien, 2nd. Baronet of Dromoland.

That part, which relates to the triennial conventions is of interest :- “The Parliament was summoned once in three years, and was distinguished by the name Feas Tramhrail. The business of the assembly was to enact wholesome laws for the government of the Kingdom, to examine into the Court Chronicles and records, to purge them of all false and spurious relations, and to settle the genealogies of the renowned Gadelians. The pedigrees and noble exploits of the several families in the island were brought before the assembly, who appointed a select committee of the most learned antiquarians to search into the truth and authority of them ; and if they were

approved and passed the scrutiny, they were admitted by the Parliament and transcribed into the Royal records, which were called, the "Salter of Tara". So that whatever laws, customs or genealogies were offered to be introduced; if they were not on enquiry found to be in this venerable journal, they were not admitted as genuine, and were rejected as an imposition upon posterity."

Magnificent entertainments were provided for the members of the triennial Parliament during the time of their session. The Assembly consisted of the principal nobility and gentry of the Kingdom ; and the military officers and principal commanders of the army were admitted to a place in these debates.

The names of all were enrolled by the learned antiquarians according to their several qualities ; and, by the superiority of their degrees, every member had a right to a place at these entertainments. When the dinner was prepared and the apartment ready, every guest had an attendant to wait upon him, and to carry his Target, which he delivered to the antiquarians, who hung them up according to their enrolment.

The dining room was a long and narrow building, with tables placed against each side of the room, only allowing a space for a waiter to stand behind. Above the table were hooks fixed in the wall at convenient distances, upon which the targets of the nobility, the gentry, and commanding officers were hung up by the learned antiquarians and heralds, whose office it was, by which means every member knew the place appointed for him to sit. Each took his place under his own target, which was easily distinguishable by the coat of arms blazoned upon the outside of them, so there was no dispute about precedence and pre-eminency.

The table on the right hand was appointed for the nobility, who were possessed of the greatest estates ; that on the left hand was for the principal officers, who had the highest posts in the army, and for the rest of the members. The end of the apartment was allotted to the antiquarians, the historians, the judges, the poets, priests, and men of learning in all professions, who were allowed to sit in this convention.

A space was left between the table and the wall for the attendants. Before the dinner every person retired from the room, and the members were called in by three loud blasts of a trumpet, and several other ceremonies were observed to raise the state and solemnity of this Convention. Ollamh Fodla was responsible in B.C. 940 for the

introduction of the plan of these triennial Assemblies. ("Ollamh", signifies a person excelling in wisdom and learning").

An ancient Irish poet thus describes the Assembly :-

"Once in three years the great Convention sat,  
"And for the public happiness debate ;  
"The King was seated on a Royal throne,  
"And in his face majestic greatness shone.  
"A monarch for heroic deeds designed,  
"For noble acts become a noble mind,  
"About him summoned by his strict command,  
"The peers, the priests, and commons of the land,  
"In princely state and solemn order stand ;  
"The Poets, likewise, are indulged a place,  
"And men of learning the Assembly grace.  
"Here every member dares the truth assert,  
"He scorns the false, and double-dealing part,  
"For a true patriot's soul disdains the trimmer's art !

THE END



## INDEX

---

- A'Court, Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Emily Holmes, 244  
 Adare, Lord, 253, 254.  
 Adrian, Pope, 27  
 Albermarle Earl of (Keppel), 88.  
     (*Lord Clare's Estate*).  
 Alexander Pope 47.  
 Annals of Ireland, Ch. XXI (Four  
     Masters).  
 Annaly, 2nd. Baron. 245.  
 Anne, Queen of England, 96 98 213  
     260 261 272 273.  
 Anglo-Saxon Royal Family (inter-  
     marriage with the O'Briens Pedi-  
     gree) 29  
 Anrud, Son of King of Norway, 22.  
 Aodh Caomh, 193.  
 Aongus, grove of, council of, 30.  
 Ara, 182, 184.  
 Ardagh, Sir John K.C.I.E., 218.  
 Ard kyn, 156.  
 Ard kin Castle (Aran), 155.  
 Argonaut Racing Club of North  
     America, 218.  
 Armagh, its ecclesiastical supre-  
     macy, 28  
 Armagh, Archbishop of 30.  
 Armagh, The book of, 25.  
 Armagh, Brian Boromhe's pious offer-  
     ing, 20.  
 Arms, The Royal Arms modified,  
     54, 198.  
 Armstrong, E.C.T. 240.  
 Armstrong, Sir Walter, 273,  
 Aran-Islands O'Briens, Ch. IX 157.  
 Arran. Elizabeth Countess of, 269.  
 Assanti, Signor Nobili Riccardo.KM.  
     246.  
 Aulavius, King of the Danes 18.
- B.
- Bael Boromha, 17  
 Bauvais-Craon, Prince de, 82  
     (pedigree), 94.  
 Ballyetragh-Castle Waterford, Ch. XIII  
 Ballyconneely, Castle of, 201.  
 Ballygriffy, Castle of, 201.  
 Bally na Clough (Stone Hall), 274.  
 Ballynalackan, Castle of, Ch X.  
 Ballynalacken O'Briens, Ch. X.  
 Bantry Richard 2nd Earl of, 145.  
 Barry, Helen, 280, 281.  
 Bath Exhibition, 260.  
 Bath graphic society 150.  
 Beal, Mary (artist), 264, 266, 267.  
 Bealach-Leachta, 18.  
 Beaufort, 7th Duke of, 90, 150.  
 Berkeley, Bishop, 138.  
 Berwick, Duke of (James Fitz James),  
     90.  
 Billing, Marquesate of, 70.  
 Bingham, Sir Richard, 112.  
 Birinus, 17.

- Blackburne, Lord Chief Justice, 231.  
 Blatherwycke Park, Ch. XIX 267, 274.  
 Bligh, Lady Théodosia (née Hyde)  
 (Countess of Darnley and Baroness  
 Clifton, sua jure). 269.  
 Blood John, of Ballykilty, 245.  
 Bolsano, lake of, 27.  
 Boyne, Battle of the, 61, 88.  
 Bog-Oak tablets, 20, 147, 148, 269, 273.  
 Brassey, Captain Robert, 188.  
 Brehons, of Thomond (Judges), 158,  
 274.  
 Brehon laws, 59.  
 Brereton, Sir William, 70.  
 Brian Boromhe, 27th King of Tho-  
 mond and Monarch of Ireland,  
 20, 23, 27 (his harp), 29, 149,  
 258, 270, 273.  
 Brian Catha an Aineagh 26, 29 (pedi-  
 gree)  
 Brian Ruadh, 181.  
 Briantir, 18.  
 Bridgeman, Eliza, 146.  
 Briganza, Catharine of, 259.  
 Brodar, General of the Danes, 22, 24.  
 O'Brodins, 160.  
 Buccleuch, Duke of, 71.  
 Buck, Adam (artist), 279.  
 Bulkeley, Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Henry, 90.  
 Bulkeley, Charlotte, 90.  
 Bunratty, Castle of, 37, 39, 40, 68, 80,  
 86, 106.  
 Burke, Edmund, Rt. Hon<sup>ble</sup>. 151, 185.  
 Burton, Sir Frederick, RHA. 237, 270.  
 Butler, Augustin, 120.  
 Buttevant, David, Lord, 185.
- C.
- Cael Uisce, 39.  
 Cadogan. Earl of, 189.  
 Cahir Castle, County Tipperary 31.  
 Cahir Con. on Shannon 31.  
 Callender of Craig Forth,  
 Sir James, 217.  
 St. Canice Cathedral (Kilkenny) 64,  
 144, 271.  
 Canon Abbey in Canon Island, 69.  
 O'Canvans, 160.  
 Carew. Sir George, 67.  
 Carolan. The blind bard, 161.  
 Carberry, Lady, 207, 267, 276, 277.  
 Carpentarius (Ratisbon Abbey) 31.  
 Carrigaholt Castle, 83, 86, 87, 99, 208.  
 Carrigogunnell Castle, 107.  
 Carrol, son of King of Norway, 22.  
 Capel Lady Theodosia, 264.  
 Casch, Mortogh, 182.  
 Cashel, Rock, 26, 31, 47.  
 Cashel, The burning of, 133.  
 Casgar, artist, 265.  
 Castel-Thomond, 1st. Marquess of,  
 28, 221.  
 Castles, in County Clare, 257.  
 Castle Lyons, Baron of, 108, 109.  
 Cathan Fionn, 192.  
 Catterson Smith, PRHA. (artist). 268.  
 Cellahan, King of Cashel, 36.  
 Champions at war, 23.  
 Charles I, 131, 272.  
 Charles II, 88, 90 134 (Council in  
 Exile),  
 Chelmsfond, Viscount, 248.  
 Chichester House Sale, 210.  
 Chichester, Sir Arthur, Lord Deputy  
 1613, 83, 84.  
 Childe, James Warren, artist, 270.  
 Chomard, Teige an, 29 pedigree, 41,  
 286.  
 Choiseul-Praslin, 3rd. Duke of, 82, 91.  
 Choiseul-Praslin, wife of 3rd Duke of,  
 (Lady Antoinette Charlotte  
 O'Brien) 82, 91.  
 Chronicum Scotorum 18, 23, 31.  
 Christianus (founder of Ratisbon Ab-  
 bey. 31.  
 Churchill, Sir Winston (Arabella Chur-  
 chill). 88.  
 Clancy, Boetius, 112, 113, 158.  
 Clancys, The, 160.  
 Clanricard, Earldom created, 27, 195  
 Clanricard, Earl of, 54.  
 Clare, dragoons, 210.  
 Clare, Regiment of, 88, 98.  
 Clare, Daniel 1st. Viscount, Ch. VI.,  
 81, 82 (pedigree), 83, 84, 85, 87,  
 92, 99, 249, 265.

- Clare, The Viscounts, Ch. VI.  
 Clare, (titles of the name), 100.  
 Clare Castle, 86.  
 Clare, Conor 2nd. Viscount, 82 pedigree, 88,  
 Clare, Daniel, 3rd Viscount, 82 pedigree, 88.  
 Clare, Daniel, 4th Viscount, 82 pedigree, 89.  
 Clare, Charles, 5th Viscount, 82 pedigree, 89.  
 Clare, Charles, 6th Viscount and 9th. Earl of Thomond, 82 pedigree, 91, 94. 95.  
 Clare, Charles, 7th Viscount and 10th Earl of Thomond, 82 pedigree, 91. 262, 266.  
 Clarendon, 1st. Earl of, 213 260, 263, 272.  
 Clarendon, 2nd. Earl of, 264, 272.  
 Clarendon, 3rd. Earl of, 269, 272.  
 Clare County Gold Cup trophy 226.  
 Clement XI Pope, 109.  
 O'Clery, Louis, poet, 163.  
 O'Clery's The, 160.  
 Clifton, Barony of, pedigree 62, 72, 269.  
 Clinton, Lord, 195, 196, (Greenwich),  
 Clonirard, Diocese of, 31.  
 Clonmacnoise, (diocese of) 31, 24, 36.  
 Clonroad, 26.  
 Clontarf, battle of, AD 1014, Ch. II, 19, 21, (23, losses in the battle).  
 Cloyne, 129, 138, 266.  
 Coad Church, Kilfenora, 202.  
 Codner, Maurice (artist), 268.  
 Coney Island, 69.  
 St. Columba College, Dublin, 253.  
 Commonwealth Army, 207. 130.  
 Conor na Catharach, 28, 31, 32 founder of Ratisbon Abbey, 33 (king of Ireland AD. 1120).  
 Conor na Suidane, 26, 29 pedigree.  
 Con (of 100 battles), 25.  
 Coningham, Marquess of, 154, 256.  
 Conmael, 22.  
 Cooper, Captain John, 203.  
 Corcobaskin, Prince of, 175.  
 Cormac Chapel, Cashel, 48.  
 Corry, Brigadier General Noel 245.  
 Court Chronicles at Tara, 287.  
 Cox, Michael Bishop of Cashel, 143, 271.  
 Craig-leath, 17.  
 Crown and, Regalia of Ireland, 26, 27.  
 Cumeragh, Castle of, Ch. XIII.  
 Cusack, Sir George, 200.  
 Cusack, Sir Thomas, 129.  
 Czar, Pieter of Russia, 281.
- D.
- The Danes, 36, 26 their invasion of England.  
 De Breteuil-O'Brien connection (pedigree) 82.  
 De Breteuil, Marquis, pedigree 82, 90.  
 De Breteuil-Comte Claude Charles pedigree 82, 91.  
 De Breteuil, Charlotte, pedigree 82, 94.  
 De Breteuil, François Marcel, Marquis, pedigree 82,  
 Dal-Cas, tribe of, 21.  
 Darcys, family of 115.  
 Darnley, Earls of, 72.  
 O'Dea, battle of Dysert O'Dea, AD. 1318, 26, 40.  
 Deane, Elizabeth, 207.  
 Deargret, 18.  
 De Clare, 40.  
 De Lee Mons. 98.  
 De Ramsey, Lord, 246.  
 Derby, Earl of, 195, (Greenwich).  
 Desart, The Earls of, 207.  
 Desians, 21.  
 Despard, Philip, 105.  
 De Talbot, Mons., 98.  
 De Durfort, Cirrac de Lorges, Comte. (pedigree 82), 94.  
 De Vere, Sir Aubrey, 234, 250, 253.  
 De Vogüe', François, Comte, 82 pedigree), 94.  
 Diamonds, The Thomond, 147.  
 Digby, Dean of Clonfert, William. 265.  
 Dionysius, Abbot of Ratisbon Abbey 32.

Dobson, artist, 266.  
 Dodgson, William D. Litt. 221.  
 Dornville Admiral Sir James, 246.  
 Don, Turlogh, 51, 286.  
 Donald Caruduff, 42.  
 Donegal, Monastery of, 42, 129, 286.  
 Donegan, Castle of, 162.  
 Donevan, 18.  
 O'Donnell, Hugh Roe, 286.  
 Draper, Herbert, artist RA, 248, 268.  
 Driella, 2nd wife Donough O'Brien  
 King of Ireland, son of Brian  
 Boromhe, 28, 29, 30.  
 Dromoland Castle, pictures and works  
 of art, Ch. XVIII. 258, 273.  
 pictures generally, 259. The MSS,  
 261.  
 Hunting and racing pictures 261.  
 Ancient kings, pictures of 262,  
 Miniatures, 270.  
 Marshal Viscount Clare's gun  
 with silver mounted stock, 92.  
 The library, 215.  
 Estates, saved from forfeiture, 123  
 Dromoland, .200, 223.  
 Duagh, 104, 126.  
 Dudley, Sir Mathew Bart., 73.  
 Duff, Brian, (of Carrigogunnell) 279.  
 Dunboyne, Baron, 46, 89, 96.  
 Dunraven, Earl, of, 254.  
 O'Duvegans, The, 160.  
 Duxon, John, 116.

## E.

Eckhard, artist, 264.  
 Edmond Ironsides, pedigree 29.  
 Edward VI, 52.  
 Edward, the Confessor, 28, 29 (pedigree).  
 Eldest sons, thirteen generations of,  
 in succession down to Lord Inchiquin, 207.  
 Elizabeth, Queen of England, 109, 111,  
 156, 158, 159, 200.  
 Eloys, 18.  
 Emmerick, town of, 278, 281 (Holland)  
 England, fairly of the name, 115, 119.

England, A. Bradfield, 116.  
 Engleheart, George, artist, 271.  
 Ennis Abbey, 37, 109, 201.  
 Ennis (Inis) fallen, annals of, 18, 23,  
 30. (see Innisfallen).  
 Ennistymon O'Briens, Ch. VII 55, 123.  
 Ennistymon House, 105, 114, 123.  
 Ennistymon Church yard, 119.  
 Erc, Monarch of Ireland, 199,  
 Eocha, Bailderg, 193.  
 Eugenians, 21.  
 Evelyn, Rose, 264, 272.  
 Evelyn, The diarist, 264.  
 Everard, Sir John, Speaker of House  
 of Commons in 1613, 8.

## F.

Fad-Aengusa, 47.  
 Farrell, Thomas, RHA., Sculptor, 233.  
 O'Felan, Daniel, King of the Danes, 18.  
 Ferdomnach of Armagh, Scribe AD.  
 807, 25.  
 Fergus, King of Scotland, 199.  
 Fermor, Sir George, 71.  
 Finucane, Chief Justice of Common  
 Pleas, Mathias, 106, 116, 117,  
 119, 236, 275.  
 Finucane, family pedigree, 117.  
 Finucane, Daniel of Carruragh, 121.  
 Finucane, Major James and Jane,  
 118, 119.  
 Finucane, Louisa Lady Inchiquin, 117,  
 236.  
 Finucane, Chief Justice Bryan, of Nova  
 Scotia, 121  
 Fitzgerald, Sir Edmond, of Cloyne,  
 129.  
 Fitzgerald, David of Kilcor, 182,  
 183, 184.  
 Fitzgerald, Mary (of Adelphi Co.  
 Clare) 235.  
 Fitzgibbon, John, Baron, 100.  
 Fitzmaurice, Fitzgerald, James, 64.  
 FitzStephens, Robert, 34.  
 Fitton, Sir Edward, 64.  
 O'Flahertys, The, Ch. IX 155, 156,  
 159.

Flint, Anne, 147.  
 Fontenoy, the battle of, 91  
 Foster, Ethel Jane, Baroness Inchiquin,  
 268.  
 Four Masters, 17, 65, 109, 154.  
 Freemasons, of England. 266.  
 Freemasons, of Munster, 266.  
 French, Anne (of Monivae), 215, 267.  
 French, Robert (of Monivae), 221,  
 257.

## G.

Gainsborough, Charles 1st Earl of, 221.  
 Gainsborough, Earl of, 276 (Stafford  
 pedigree).  
 Galway, City of, 155, 159.  
 Galway Merchants, 154.  
 Galway Pirates, 154  
 Gauthier de Chiffreville, Marie Ge-  
 nevieve, 91, 96.  
 Gavelkind, 58, 158.  
 Gervastius, (Ratisbon abbey), 32.  
 Giraldus Cambrensis, 22.  
 Gheeraets, Max, artist, 260.  
 Glac, Teige, 31, 157.  
 Glencoe, Chiefs of, Ch. XII.  
 Gluniaran, King of the Danes, 19.  
 Godwin, Earl, AD. 1051, 28, 29.  
 Goodwin, Bishop of Carlisle, 121.  
 O'Grady, Captain, 122.  
 Great Billing Church, 71, 73, 74, 212,  
 265.  
 Great Gold Find, in County Clare, 239.  
 Greenhill, artist, 264.  
 Greenwich, 51.  
 Greenwich, Palace of, 192, 193, 199  
 picture of ceremony of Surrender,  
 258.  
 Greville, Charles, diarist, 231.  
 Grey, Lord, Leonard, 190.  
 Guilielmus (Ratisbon Abbey) 32.  
 Gwatkin, Theophila, 142.  
 Gwynn, Revd. John, Dean of Raphoe,  
 224.

## H.

Hamilton Sir George, 207, 267.  
 Hamilton, Anne, Countess of Orkney,  
 139.

Harnet, artist, 267.  
 Harris, Hon. Charles, Bishop of  
 Gibraltar, 268.  
 Harold, King 18, 28, 29 (pedigree).  
 Hawke Lord admiral, 149.  
 Heber eldest son of Milesius, 25.  
 Henrietta Maria, Queen, 134, 135, 214,  
 260, 272.  
 Henry II, King of England, 59.  
 Henry VIII 27, 51, 193, 196, 197 1.2  
 Hervey Bathurst, Sir Frederick Bart,  
 245.  
 Heremon, (third son of Milesius) 25.  
 Heytesbury, Lord, 244.  
 O'Hickeys, The, 160, 161.  
 Hickman, Hugh, of Fenloe, 214.  
 Hickman, Thomas, of Brickhill 219.  
 268.  
 Hogarth, William, artist, 140, 266.,  
 Holles, Baron, 100.  
 Holy Cross Abbey, 43, 44, 45, 47.  
 Horsford, Valentine Horne, 146.  
 Hotham, Capt. George Frederick  
 RN. 145.  
 Hudson Bay Company 218.  
 Hunter, Robert, artist, 267.  
 Hyde, Lady Ann, Duchess of York  
 213, 260. 272.  
 Hyde, Lady Frances, 260, 272.

## I.

Ibrickan, 153.  
 Ibrickan. Barony of, 106, 193, 258.  
 Ibrickan, Lord, 195, 196, 211.  
 (Ybreckan)  
 Ibrickan Castle, 83,  
 Inchiquin, Barony of, 52.  
 Inchiquin, Barons and Earls of, Ch. VIII.  
 pedigree 50.  
 Inchiquin, Murrough, 1st. Earl of,  
 27, 130, 266.  
 Inchiquin, William, 2nd Earl of, 136.  
 211, 212, 259.  
 Inchiquin, William, 3rd. Earl of, 138,  
 266. Inchiquin, William, 4th Earl of,  
 92, 139, 266.

Inchiquin, Lucius, 13th Baron, 53,  
117, 128, 201, 235, 237, 242,  
268, 272.

Inchiquin Castle, Co. Clare, Corofin, 199

Inchiquin, Edward Donough, 14 Baron,  
244, 247, 256, 268, 272,

Inchiquin, Lucius, 15 Baron, 247,  
248, 249, 268, 272, 273.

Inchiquin, Donough Edward Foster,  
16 Baron, 247, 268, 272, 285.

Inchiquin, Ellen, Baroness, 268.

Inchiquin, Ethel Jane, Baroness, 268.

Inchicronan, 211.

Inis Cathay, Bishop of, 269, 18.

Inis Caltra, 36, 182.

Ing, Dean W.R. DD. 221, 272.

Ingledew Mr. 149.

Ingoldsby, Sir Henry, 274.

Innis fallen, Annals of, 18, 23, 30.

(see Ennisfallen)

Innocents, Inrollments of, Roll II.  
35 203, 204, 205.

Ireton, General 38 87, 185, 205, 259.

Irish Brigade, (at Fontenoy) 91..

Irish and English Contemporary Kings,  
26.

Irish Compendium of Rudiments of  
honor 198 (4th Edition)

Irish House of Commons, free speech  
vindicated 86.

Isaacus (Ratisbon Abbey) 32.

## J.

Jacobite Titles, Lismore, 168.

Tallow, 168.

Castle Lyons 168.

Jervais, artist, 266.

Jamaica, 136, 137.

James I, 83, 84.

James II, 90, 96, 209, 260, 272.

James III, Pretender, James Francis  
Edward, 96, 97.

Jannsens, Cornelius, artist, 264, 265,

Jans, Susanna, 280, 281.

John King of England, 37, 107, 263.

John, Pope, 40.

Johnston, Lewis Farley, 269.

## K.

Keating. Jeoffrey, 173, 287.

O'Keefes, 115.

Keightley, The Right Honorable

Thomas, 260, 261, 272, 273.

Keightley, Catharine, 96, 213, 272, 273.

Keightley-O'Brien pedigree with Stuart  
family connection, 213, 272.

Keightley, Thomas, 264, 272 (b. 1634).

Keightley, Thomas (b. 1650) 264, 272.

Keightley, William (b. 1621), 264, 272.

Keightley, Francis, 264, 272.

Kells, Book of, 25.

Kennedy, King of Ireland, 29.

(AD. 938).

Kidwell, William, Sculptor, 251.

Kildare, 18th. Earl of, 72.

Kilkee, 160.

Kilkenny, Confederation of, 86.

Killalagh, Village, 158.

Killaloe, 17.

Killaloe, Cathedral, Church of, 17,  
31, 33, 193.

Killone Abbey, 25, 115, 116.

Kilmainham Camp. 21.

Kilnasoolagh Church, 207, 208. 251.

Kincora Palace, 17, 21, 30, 33.

Kings of Ireland, 59.

Kneller, Sir, Godfrey, artist, 214, 260.  
264, 266.

Knights Service, 56.

Knockfinn, School of, 158.

Knockmoy Abbey, 34.

## L.

Laiten, 23.

La Hogue, 212.

Land tenure changed 58.

Lane, Sir. Hugh, 273.

Largillière, artist, 90.

Lawrence, Sir Thomas, 271.

Leconfield, Baron, 215, 256.

Leeds, Duke of, 72.

Leinster 1st. Duke of, 139

Leicester, Earl of, 246.

Leith Con, 24.

Leith Mogha (Moy), 24.  
 Lely, Sir Peter, 264, 269.  
 Lemeneagh Castle, 106, 113, 200, 207.  
 Lemeneagh and Dromoland O'Briens  
 190, 200.  
 Leopold, Emperor of Germany, 282.  
 Liscrona, 259.  
 Lifford, 119.  
 Limerick City, Early Charter, 206.  
 Limerick, Treaty of, AD. 1691, 212.  
 Limerick Charter, AD. 1198. 26.  
 Limerick (its society in 1841) 253.  
 Liscannor Castle, 104, 113, 125.  
 Lismore, Dean of, 254.  
 Lismore, Earls of, 108, 109, 168.  
 Listowel, Earl of, 245,  
 Liveries, Royal privilege to wear, 198.  
 Lotharius, Roman Emperor (Ratis-  
 bon and Crusade) 32.  
 Lucas, Charles, Irish patriot, 216.  
 Lucas, Joseph, 116.  
 Ludlow's Cavalry, 211.  
 Louis XV, (three letters) 94. 95.

## M.

MacDonnell, family of, Ch. XII  
 115, 171.  
 MacDonnell, Charles, 115, 219.  
 MacDonnell, Sir James, 2nd. Bart.,  
 170.  
 Mac Brodine, Teige Mac Daire, 162.  
 Mc. Carthy, Florence Reagh 67.  
 Mc. Clanshy, family of, 274.  
 St. Mac Creiche, Church of, 125.  
 St. Mary Cathedral, Limerick, 36, 161,  
 224, 265.  
 Maitland Sir Arthur Steel., 225.  
 Magh-Adhair (famous tree) 19.  
 Mahon Dall, 177.  
 Mahon (brother of Brian Boroimhe)  
 17.  
 Mahon Moinmoy, 29.  
 Mahon, O'Gorman (a duel) 226.  
 Mac Mahon, Marshal, 17 pedigree, 31.  
 61, 75.  
 Macmahon, Mary, (Moira Ruhr)  
 123.  
 Malachy, King of Tara, 19.  
 Magna Charta, 263.  
 Malmesbury, 2nd Earl of, 268.  
 Marconi, Marchese Guglielmo, 246.  
 Maolmuadh, MacBrain, 18.  
 Marignoli di Montecorona, Mar-  
 chese, 246.  
 Macnamara, William Nugent, 105,  
 116.  
 Macnamara Francis 105, 116.  
 Mary, Queen of England, 96, 213, 272.  
 Mc Swiney, Marchioness of, 116.  
 Mazarin, Duchess of, 265.  
 Massigli, 80.  
 Middleton, Lady (artist) 268.  
 Mignard, (artist) 90.  
 Milesius, King of Spain and Ireland, 25.  
 Miltown Malbay, 153.  
 Mirabelle, Count de, 269.  
 Mogha Nuadh, King of Munster, 25.  
 Moira Ruhr, wife of Col. Conor  
 O'Brien 202, 205, 259, 262.  
 Moin-Moy, Battle of, 33.  
 Moher, Cliffs of, 159.  
 Monteagle, Thomas, Lord, 224.  
 Montelius, Dr. O. 240.  
 Monsell, William, (Lord Emly) 253.  
 Monfin, 177.  
 Moore, the poet, 254.  
 Moore, Colonel Crofton, 257.  
 Mordaunt, Captain, 113, 200.  
 Morton Mr., 113.  
 Moughan Fort, 241.  
 Mountcashel, Lord, Macarthy, 212.  
 Mountjoye, Lord, (Grenwich) 195, 196.  
 Moy Village, 119.  
 Moylena, battle of, AD. 167. 25.

## N.

National Gallery, Dublin, 272.  
 O'Neill, Haithbhiortach 20.  
 Newborough, Catharine Howard  
 Countess of, 269.  
 New College Chapel, 142.  
 New Hall (Killone) 115.  
 Norreys, Sir John, 279.  
 Nugent, Robert, Earl of, 101.

## O.

- O'Briens, of Ara, Ch. XVI 182, 184.  
 O'Brien, Augustus of Blatherwycke 254.  
 O'Brien, Arthur Henry (Canada) 219.  
 O'Brien, Annie Maria (Spooner) 221, 272.  
 O'Briens (of Aran) Ch. IX, 155, 157.  
 O'Brien, Ann, 105.  
 O'Brien, Lady Antoinette Charlotte, (Duchess de Choiseul-Praslin). 82 pedigree, 91.  
 O'Brien, Lady Ann, 71.  
 O'Brien, King Donough, son of Brian Boroimhe, 27.  
 O'Brien, Donald More, founded many Abbeys including Ratisbon) 26, 29, 32, 35, 68, 115.  
 O'Brien, Donough Cairbreach, King of Limerick. 26 pedigree, 29, 37, 38, 107, 109, 262, 263.  
 O'Brien, Murrough The Tanist, 57th King of Thomond, and 1st. Earl of Thomond and 1st Baron Inchiquin, 1543 AD. 1st. part of Ch. IV., 26, 29, 51, 55, 63, 128, 192, 195, 196, 197. 12 to 12, 198, 199, 200, 258, 263; Ch. VIII Terms of surrender to Henry VIII.  
 O'Brien, Turlough, King of Ireland AD. 1086, 29, 30 (homage).  
 O'Brien, Conor na Catharach (See under na Catharach).  
 O'Brien, Sir Donald Kt. (brother of 2nd. Earl of Thomond) 64, 104.  
 O'Brien, Conor King of Thomond, Ch.V. p.1.  
 O'Brien, Mortogh Mac Turlogh (of Aran) 159.  
 O'Brien, The Clan Teige of Aran, 155.  
 O'Brien, Slaney, Abbess, 115.  
 O'Brien, Donough, of Duagh, 117.  
 O'Brien, Honora, 117.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Duagh and Ennistymon, Ch. VII, pedigree 103, 164.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Pobble Brian, 107, 279.  
 O'Brien, Turlogh Mael, 41.  
 O'Brien, "The", 37.  
 O'Brien, Brian Roe, 40.  
 O'Brien, Sir Daniel, 1st. Viscount Clare, 82, pedigree, (See under Clare) 99, 211.  
 O'Brien, Sir Turlogh, Kt., 104, 110 111, 113.  
 O'Brien, Sir Turlogh Bart, 182.  
 O'Brien, Bishop Considine, 35.  
 O'Brien, Edward George, founder of the Canada branch of O'Briens 218.  
 O'Briens, Canadian Branch, 217, 218.  
 O'Brien, Lucius Richard, President Royal Candian Academy, artist. 218.  
 O'Brien, Finola, 286.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Carrigonnell. 279.  
 O'Brien Lady Margaret 46.  
 O'Brien, Hon Laura, 82 pedigree, 90, 91.  
 O'Brien, Henry, Lord O'Brien 71.  
 O'Brien, Col. Christopher, 129.  
 O'Brien Eugene, 177.  
 O'Briens-Bridge, 129.  
 O'Briens, a picture presentation by the family 138, 259.  
 O'Brien, The O'Brien Gathering St. Patrick's day 1936 251, 285.  
 O'Brien, Bishop Maurice, 184.  
 O'Brien, Bishop John, 185.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Kileor, 182, 183, 184.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Pellick Castle 182, 183.  
 O'Brien, Terence Bishop of Emley 184, 185, 206.  
 O'Brien, Edward of Ennistymon 115, 105.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Ennistymon, Ch. VII, 55, 123.  
 O'Briens, The O'Briens of Lohort Castle, 182, 184, 188, 189, arms.  
 O'Briens, Sir Timothy Bart. 188, 189.

- O'Briens, of Ballynalakan, Ch. X.  
 O'Brien, Peter, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland 166.  
 O'Briens, of Lemeneagh and Dromoland, Ch. XVII 190.  
 O'Brien, Ignatius John Lord Chancellor of Ireland 256.  
 O'Brien, Henry of Stonehall, 2nd. son of Sir Donough O'Brien of Dromoland. 267. 275. 276.  
 O'Brien, Col. Conor, of Lemeneagh Castle 267.  
 O'Brien, Egerton Augustus Stafford, 274, 277.  
 O'Briens, French branch, Ch. XV 177, 178.  
 O'Briens, The Waterford O'Briens, Ch. XIII 117.  
 O'Brien, Donough 3rd Son of Murrough The Tanist, 1st. Earl of Thomond 200 201, 259.  
 O'Brien-Stuart-Keightley (pedigree 72)  
 O'Brien, Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Donough, the author of this history of The O'Briens 245. 25.  
 O'Brien, Sir Donough MacConnor Kt. grand father of Sir Donough O'Brien 1st. Bart 128, 202.  
 O'Brien, Christopher of Ennistymon. 128.  
 O'Brien, Cornelius, MP. for Comty Clarc 165.  
 O'Brien Lord Edward, brother of the 2nd. and 3rd. Marquises of Thomond, 150, 271.  
 O'Brien, family armorial quarterings, 54.  
 O'Briens, The terms of Surrender to King Henry VIII in AD. 1543 of the kingdom of Thomond, by Murrough, 1st. Earl of Thomond 55.  
 O'Brien Sir Donough 1st. Bart. 113, 203, 206, 211, 260, 267, 272, 274.  
 O'Brien, Lucius, son of Sir D. O'Brien 1st. Bart, 213, 272.  
 O'Brien Sir Edward 2nd Bart. 214. 261, 267, 273.  
 O'Brien, Sir Lucius 3rd. Bart. 215, 267, 272.  
 O'Brien, James of Ennis MP. Co. clare 116.  
 O'Brien, Capt. Edward RN. 143.  
 O'Brien, Sir Edward, 4th Bart. 219, 222, 272.  
 O'Brien, Admiral Robert, RN., 219, 220.  
 O'Brien, William Smith, MP. 223, 224, 225, 226, 271.  
 (his Career) 227 to 233.  
 O'Brien, Lucius, Dean of Limerick, 224.  
 O'Brien, Harriet, 224, 272.  
 O'Brien, William Dermot, PRHA. 224.  
 O'Brien, Edward, Deputy Commissioner of the Punjaub, 235.  
 O'Brien, Daniel (progenitor of the Dutch branch of the O'Briens) Ch. XX., 278.  
 O'Briens, The Dutch branch, its pedigree 280, also, pedigree in Ch. VII. (becoming known as "O'Breens")  
 O'Brien (O'Brien), Hendrick P.D. Vander Speck, 283.  
 O'Brien (O'Brien), Col. Pieter Vander Speck, 283.  
 O'Brien (O'Brien), Hendrick Tjaade, 284.  
 O'Brien (O'Brien), Justus Marinus (b. 1911).  
 O'Brien (O'Brien), Otto, 280, 281.  
 O'Connor, Dermot, DD. 287.  
 O'Connell, Daniel, 225, 227, 228.  
 Oghterlamaan Monastery, 46.  
 Ollam Fodla (BC. 940) 288.  
 O'Neil, Con. 191.  
 Orde, General James, 146.  
 Ormonde, Pierce, 8th. Earl of, 64.  
 Ormonde, Earl of, 195, (Greenwich).  
 Orkney, Mary, Countess of, 270.  
 Ottley, Thomas, 146.  
 Oules, Walter, artist, 268.  
 Owre, Donall, 179.
- P.
- Paine William (architect) 222.  
 Palmer, Mary (Marchioness of Thomond) 141, 273.

Pascal, Pope, 37.  
 Patent (Letters). of Earl of Thomond  
 and Baron Inchiquin (AD. 1543),  
 196, 197, l. 2 to 13, Henry VIII to  
 Murrough O'Brien, 57th. King of  
 Thomond:

St. Patrick 192, his confession 25.  
 Perceval, Dudley, 223, 272.  
 Perceval, Sir Philip, 136.  
 Phair, ~~very~~ Revd. Dr. 145.  
 Plantations, The, an account under  
 Sir Arthur Chichester in 1613, 84.  
 Pobble-O'Brien, 279.

Sir John, Poper Hennessy, 148.  
 Porter, The Right Honorable Sir Char-  
 les, Lord Chancellor of Ireland 265.  
 Powerscourt, Viscount, Ch. VIII.  
 Praslin, 3rd. Duke of (See Choiseul-  
 Praslin) 82, 91.  
 Praslin, 4th. Duke of, pedigree 82, 94.  
 Praslin, Marie Cesar Gabriel, 8th.  
 Duke of, 82, 94.  
 Praslin-O'Brien Connection, pedigree  
 82.

## Q.

Quin Abbey, The Prior, 161.  
 Quin 207.

## R.

Raeburn, artist, 269.  
 Radley, College, 253.  
 Ram, Abel John, KC. 236.  
 Ram. Revd. George, 235.  
 Ram, Sir Lucius Granville, 235.  
 Rathcormac Cemetery, 185.  
 Ratisbon, Abbey of St. Peter and St.  
 James, (Regensberg) 31, 32, (its  
 records).  
 Rechusson (Dutch artist) 281.  
 Reily, John, artist, 264.  
 Rental of O'Brien, 158.  
 Reynolds, Sir Joshua, PRA. 141, 142,  
 150, 151, 152, 260, 272, 273.  
 Ricard, Hyacinth, artist) 90.  
 Richard, King of England 206.  
 Richardson, artist, 264.

Rinnana, 249.  
 Rinuccini, Pope's Nuncio, 80.  
 Robert II, King of Scotland, Ch. XX.  
 Rochester, 1st. Earl of, Lawrence,  
 260, 272.  
 Roman Catholics and James I., 84.  
 Rostellan Castle Co. Cork, 138, 148,  
 260.  
 Rostellan Ware, 148, 266.  
 Russell, Admiral, 213.  
 Russell, Sir Francis, 73.

## S.

Sargent, Frederick, Artist, 268.  
 Sarsfield d'Usson, 212.  
 Samuel, artist, 265.  
 Sewell, Revd., Fellow of Exeter College  
 Oxford, 253, 254.  
 Seymour, Lady Elizabeth 74, 265.  
 Scheemaker, Sculptor, 145.  
 Shanty Bay. (Lake Simcoe), 218.  
 Scottery, Island, (on Shannon), 18.  
 Shee, Sir Martin Archer, PHA., 147.  
 O'Sheils, 160.  
 Sitricus, Chief Commander of insular  
 Danes, 22.  
 Slaughter. Stephen, artist, 268.  
 (St. Ledger, Sir William 130, 212,  
 266.  
 Smith William 224.  
 Smyly, Sir Philip, 224.  
 Smyth, Judge John Watt, 235.  
 Somerset, 6th Duke of, 77.  
 Somerset, Duke of, 74, 265.  
 Somerset, Lady Henrietta, 90.  
 Spanish, Armada, 112, 113.  
 Spanish Armada Table, 113, 201, 270,  
 278.  
 Spencer, artist 261.  
 Spooner, Archdeacon 221 pedigree,  
 220, 272, (See O'Brien, Annie  
 Maria)  
 Spooner, William, (Warden of New  
 College, Oxford), 221.  
 Sron Conor, 42.  
 Stackpooles, of Edenvale, 116.  
 Stafford, Susannah, 274, 276.

- Stafford, William, of Blatherwycke, 207, 267, 276.  
 State Papers, 193, No. 370. Vol. 3 p. 395; No. 389 Vol. 3. p. 453; 194, No. 391 Vol. 3. p. 460; 196, Vol. 3 p. 473.  
 Steel, Thomas, 226.  
 St. Stephen's Monastery Rome 26, 27.  
 Stonchall (Ballynacloough) Ch. XIX. 214, 267, 274.  
 Strafford, Earl of, peerages, 238.  
 Stuart, titles granted in exile, 109.  
 Stuart-O'Brien, pedigree 213, 272. (Keightley).  
 Stuckley, Sir George, Bart, 145.  
 Suffolk, 2nd. Earl of, 269.  
 Suffolk, Charles, 7th. Earl of, 73, Supremacy, Act. of, 84.  
 Surnames, use of, 20.  
 Sussex, Earl of, 64.  
 Swords, Abbey of, 21, 269.

## T.

- Tallow, Viscounts, 108, 109. 168.  
 Tanistry, described 56, 57.  
     Abolished AD. 1606, 60.  
 Tangier, harbour of, 259.  
 Tara, triennial Parliaments 287.  
 Tara, Salter of, 288.  
 Tara, Royal Assemblies, 287.  
 Tara, Prince of, 21.  
 Tara, qualification for Kingship 24.  
 Tate, Archbishop of Canterbury 221.  
 Taylor, Major William Stanhope, 145.  
 Teige an Caeluisce, 26, 29 pedigree.  
 St. Teresa Virgin, Ch. XII. 169.  
 Thesiger, Hon. Anne, Lady Inchiquin, 247.  
 Thomond, Earls of, pedigree 62, 161.  
 Thomond, The Earldom, 52, 197 12 to 13. created 195, letters-patent 196, 197.  
 Thomond, Murrough O'Brien, 57th. King of Thomond, created 1st. Earl in 1543, see under "O'Brien".  
 Thomond, Donough 2nd Earl of 51.  
 Thomond, Conor, 3rd Earl of, 64.  
 Thomond, Donough, 4th Earl of, The Great Earl, 65, 68, 82, 85, 265.  
 Thomond, Henry, 5th Earl of, 69, 265.  
 Thomond, Barnabas, 6th Earl of, 72, 212, 265.  
 Thomond, Henry 7th Earl of, 73, 90, 212, 265.  
 Thomond, Henry, 8th Earl of, (his will 76), 61, 67, 90, 215, 265.  
 Thomond, Charles, 9th. Earl of, Marshal of France 6th Viscount clare, 91, 168, 215.  
 Thomond, Contesse, wife of 9th Earl of Thomond. 99.  
 Thomond, Murrough 1st. Marquis of, 99. (5th Earl of Inchiquin) 140, 151, 266, 271.  
 Thomond, William 2nd Marquis of, (6th Earl of Inchiquin) 145.  
 Thomond, James, Admiral RN. 3rd. Marquis of, (7th. Earl of Inchiquin and 12th. Baron Inchiquin) 53, 128, 145, 146, 147 his will, 260.  
 Thomond, The Marquises of, Ch. VIII.  
 Thompson Thomas Clement RHA. 146.  
 Tigernach, Annals of, 18.  
 Tireahan, Bishop of, 25.  
 Tod, Dr. 240.  
 Tolka, fishing Weir, 23.  
 Toulmin, Rev<sup>d</sup> J.B. 235.  
 Trinity College, Dublin, 85, 202.  
 Tromrow, Castle of, 155.  
 Trowmore, (Aran) 153.  
 Tudor Kinship with the O'Briens, 197, 198.  
 Turlogh Bog, 26, 29 pedigree.  
 Turlogh Don, 26, 29 pedigree, 42.  
 Tyreconnell, Earl of, 84, 86. 279.  
 Tyreconnell, Duke of, 210.  
 Tyrone, Earl of 84, 86, 170, 279.

## U.V.

- Uniformity, Act of 84.  
 Vandyk, 214, 260, 265, 269.  
 Vandeleur, Col. CM. 257.  
 Van`Loo, artist, 269.

Van Somer, artist, 264.  
 Van Wyck, artist, 262.  
 Victoria, Queen of England, 199 her  
 Jubilees, 189, 218, 232, 247.  
 Vignacourt, Marquis de, 94.

# W.

Wales, Prince of, his stud 1730, 262.  
 Waterford O'Briens, 173.  
 Waterford, Charter of King John, 263.  
 Waade, Col. Charles, 236.  
 Westby, Edward P., 257.  
 Westminster Abbey, 72.  
 Westminster Hall (timber from Ireland) 31.  
 Wheatly, Francis RA. (artist) 268.  
 Wentworth, Lord, afterwards Earl of, Stafford, Lord Deputy, 86.  
 White, Honble Charles William. (of Cahircon) 256.  
 White, Honble. Ellen Harriet, Baroness Inchiquin, 268.  
 Widow Mc Cormac Cabbage Garden, 231.  
 William The Conqueror, AD 1066, pedigree 29.  
 William of Orange (William III of England), 212.  
 William Rufus (william II of England), 31.  
 William of Wickham, Bishop of Winchester, 255.  
 Willyams, James, 146.  
 Wilson ofcliffe, Gerald, Darlington, Yorks, 235.  
 Winchester College, 225, 255.  
 Wingfield, Richard, Ch. VIII. (of Powerscourt).  
 Wise, James F. N. 148.  
 Wyndham, Perey, nephew by marriage of 8th Earl of Thomond, 75, 77, 78, 139, 215.